～THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER～

絶園のテンペスト

原作 城平京
構成 左有秀
作画 彩崎廉

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GC
～THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER～

絶園のテンペスト 3

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～THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER～

GC ガンガンコミックス

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～THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER～

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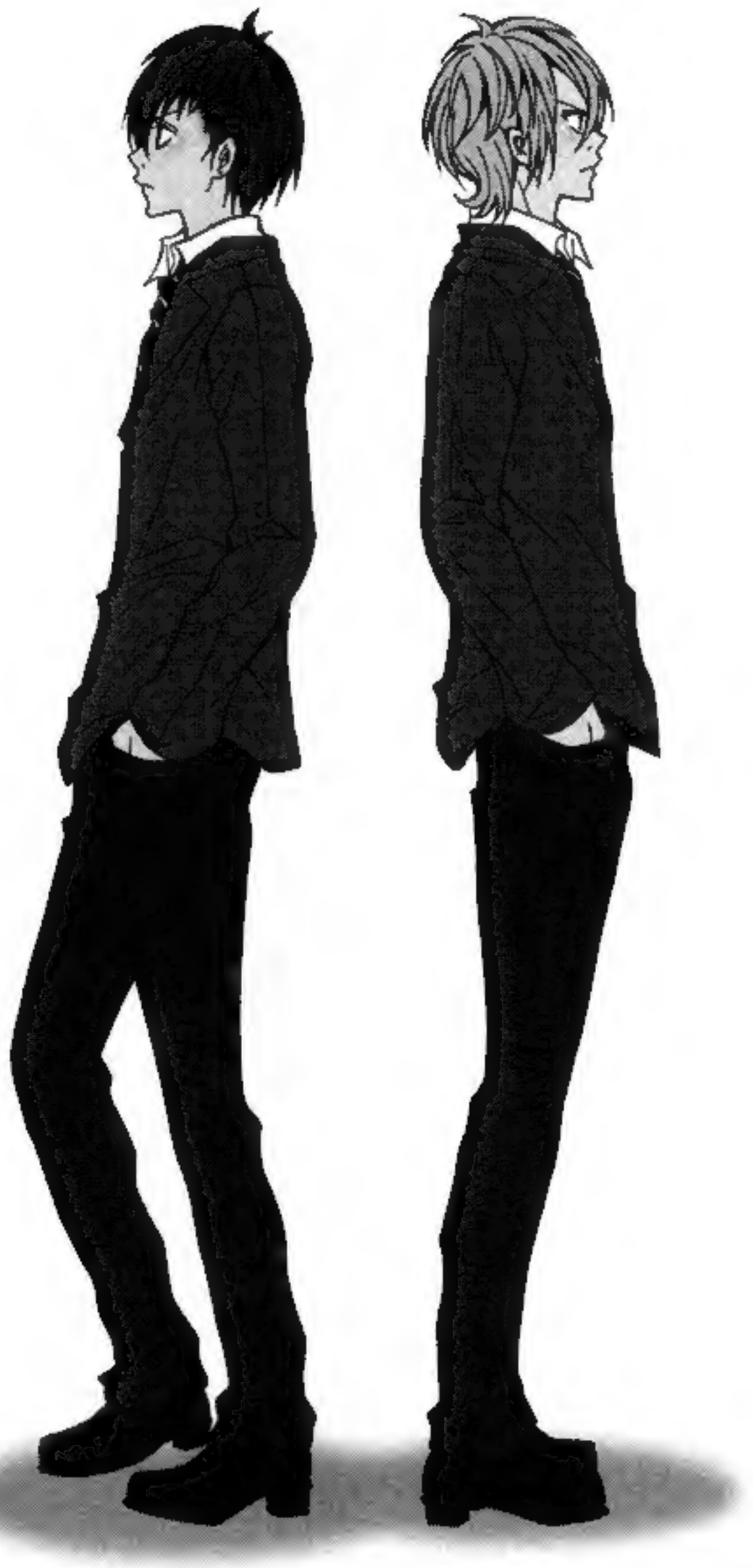

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絶園のテンペスト 3

~THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER~

CHAPTER 10: BOYFRIEND

DON'T FIRE RANDOMLY !!
YOU MIGHT HIT OUR OWN TROOPS!

TWENTY!

THAT MAKES

NOT THAT OUR ATTACKS EVEN MATTER!

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BREAK THAT?

RATHER THAN WEAKENING, IT'S AS IF HIS DEFENSE IS GETTING EVEN STRONGER.

HE'S JUST DESTROYING OUR WEAP-ONS WITHOUT HARMING THE SOLDIERS AT ALL!

WHAT A GUY!

WE'RE NOT SUFFER-ING ANY CAUSALITIES, BUT THE TROOPS ARE LOSING THEIR MORALE.

HE RENEWS HIS DEFENSE MAGIC EVERY TIME. WE'RE HELP-LESS!

THE ATTACKS ON THE BARRIER WEAKENED TOO ...

HIGHEST PRIORITY!

REQUESTING EXECUTION OF CODE F.

IS NO LONGER ABOUT US SAVING FACE.

THIS

JUST ONE LONE MAGICIAN CAN SCREW UP A WHOLE ARMY?

... HE DESTROYED ABOUT 20% OF THE WEAPONS?

FOR MAGIC ALSO HASTENS ITS AWAK-ENING.

OFFERING THE "TREE OF BEGINNING" HIGHLY DEVELOPED WEAPONS

IT'S NOT GOING THE WAY I PLANNED.

ON THE LONG RUN, WE'RE IN TROUBLE ...

I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE NATSUMURA DEPLOY SO EARLY....

THOUGH IT WOULD REALLY BE A PROBLEM IF THERE REALLY WAS ONE

IS ASKING US TO CONFIRM A MURDER FROM A YEAR AGO, AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME.

AND SAMON-DONO, ON THE OTHER HAND,

I WANT TO ADD THEM TO THE INVESTIGATION.

BRING ME TWO OF THE RESERVES OVER HERE.

IS THIS REALLY NEEDED RIGHT NOW?

DAMN. I CAN'T TELL HOW THINGS STAND.

[redacted] DOES IT JUST LOOK LIKE IT, WHILE IT'S ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE?

ARE WE ON THE ADVANTAGE?

NOT THAT MUCH OF A NERVE-WRECKING SITUATION!

THEN IT SHOULD TAKE LESS THAN AN HOUR TO CONFIRM IT...

IF HIS SISTER'S MURDERER IS REALLY ONE OF THE CLAN

BUT

JUMPING THE GUN NOW WOULD BE EVEN MORE STUPID.

I NEED TO STAY CALM...

WHAT?

ゴゴゴゴ

ピーッ

WHAT'S UP, YOSHINO?

SORRY, MASHIRO.

GR .... !

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL HERE!

I JUST THOUGHT

I WOULD TAKE THAT TALISMAN OF YOURS.

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

GRR ...

TREE WITHIN A TREE,

GREAT OAK WITHIN AN OAK,

I WON'T ALLOW ANY MORE CRAZY DEVELOPMENTS!

チャリ

HEAR MY WORDS !!

DON'T BE STUPID!

DON'T LAY YOUR HANDS ON YOSHINO!

HEY!

IF YOUR TALISMAN GETS STOLEN

IT WOULD TROUBLE ME TOO.

AND IT'D ALSO BE TROUBLESOME IF THAT TALISMAN ACTIVATES BECAUSE OF THE SHOCK FROM THE ATTACK.

LEAVE THIS TO ME!

MOVE IT!

SHUT UP!

WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?

MY, MY, STUN GRE-NADES?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I SAID I GOT THEM CHEAP OFF THE INTER-NET?

ﾊｯ

.....
DAMN!

MEDIATE A KID'S FIGHT AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?

WHY DO I HAVE TO

JUST STAY PUT.

I WON'T TAKE YOUR LIFE.

WHAT !?

I CAN SEND YOU FLYING, ALL RIGHT.

LIKE I THOUGHT. IF I HIT YOU WITH ANOTHER MAGIC FIELD,

ENTERING THE STAGE!

ALSO CALLED FRAULEIN YAMA-MOTO.

SURNAME: YAMAMOTO. GIVEN NAME: EVANGE-LINE.

いい…

WHAT IS YOUR FRIEND THINKING?

WHAT IS HE AFTER!

YOSHINO, YOU HEARD IT,

WHAT'S UP?

HUH?

MAHIRO,

WHY DID WE COME HERE?

ARE WE JUST GONNA FEED HER TO THE DOGS?

YET HERE WE ARE,

ABANDONING A GIRL IN THE SAME UNREASONABLE FASHION.

AREN'T WE HERE FOR YOUR SISTER, WHO WAS UNREASONABLY MURDERED ONE YEAR AGO?

BUT CAN YOU REALLY LIVE WITH A TRAGIC ENDING?

YOU MAY CALL IT REVENGE,

DIDN'T YOU?

BACK WHEN THE FRUIT APPEARED IN THE CITY,

YOU PITIED AND SAVED THAT GIRL YOU HAD NO RELATION TO

ﾁｯ

.... YOU SAY THAT, BUT WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE HERE?

NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, SHE'S ALREADY DEAD!

THE ONE OF OUR TIMELINE IS JUST BONES NOW!

THE HAKAZE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOLL IS FROM 2 YEARS AGO.

THAT'S OUR MAIN GOAL TO BEGIN WITH, RIGHT?

SO THERE IS REASON ENOUGH TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH THIS GUY, IN ORDER TO FIND THE MURDERER!

YOSHINO,

WHAT MAKES YOU STAND UP SO VEHEMENTLY?

IT'S LIKE MAHIRO SAID.

I'M ALREADY DEAD IN YOUR TIME-LINE.

THEN, WOULD YOU JOIN HANDS WITH HAKAZE-SAN AGAIN

IF THERE WAS A WAY TO BOTH RESCUE HAKAZE-SAN AND HAVE YOUR RE-VENGE?

YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!

I KNOW... IT CAN'T REVIVE THE DEAD,

IT CAN'T REVIVE AIKA-CHAN EITHER,

MAGIC CAN'T REVIVE THE DEAD.

... LOGICALLY, I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS,

BUT SHE'S ALL BONES NOW. HOW ARE YOU GONNA SAVE HER?

THE LIVING HAKAZE-SAN FROM TWO YEARS AGO TO OUR TIMELINE.

BUT IN MY HANDS, I HOLD PROOF THAT MAGIC CAN BRING

EVEN SO,

THIS BOY ....!

GEH.

THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD CHANGE THE DEAL AND LET THE MURDERER GET AWAY THAT EASILY.

THERE IS NO MERIT FOR ME.

BE-SIDES,

WHY SHOULD I BOTHER GOING BACK TO HAKAZE

WHEN I CAN SIMPLY FIND THE MURDERER RIGHT HERE?

THERE IS A MERIT.

GOOD.

?

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ....

LOOKS LIKE HE, AT LEAST, HAS GOT A BIT OF A BRAIN.

IF YOU COME OVER TO US AGAIN,

I'LL TELL YOU WHO AIKA-CHAN'S BOY-FRIEND WAS.

!!?

DON'T SPOUT NON-SENSE!

EAR-
LIER,

YOU SAID YOU HAD NO CLUE WHO IT WAS!

THEN TELL ME!

I DIDN'T SAY THAT.

YOU CHANGED THE TOPIC BEFORE I COULD ANSWER.

AW, DAMN.

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

BUT YOU MIGHT BE BETTER OFF NOT KNOW-ING.

YEAH.

WHY DOES THAT AFFECT HIM SO MUCH?

BOY-FRIEND? WHAT?

YEAH, I KNOW.

OBVI-OUSLY. SINCE IT'S ME.

DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHO HER BOYFRIEND WAS?

BUT AS LONG AS YOU DON'T JOIN ME, YOU WILL NEVER FIND OUT.

THAT'S THE DEAL I GIVE YOU.

YOU'LL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WORRY-ING ABOUT IT.

I NEVER KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING AT TIMES LIKE THESE.

BUT THAT'S SOME REAL DEAL THERE.

BUT A BLUFF FROM HIM?

A BLUFF?

AND WHY IS HE SIDING WITH HAKAZE TO SUCH AN EXTENT ...

I CAN'T LET IT END IN A TRAGEDY.

I WON'T LET AIKA-CHAN'S DEATH BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR THIS TRAGEDY.

THIS IS THE DUTY AIKA-CHAN ENTRUSTED TO ME, MAHIRO.

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T BACK OFF HERE.

WAIT. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A BOYFRIEND? WHY'S HE SO HESITANT?

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPEN-ING!

I'LL TELL YOU NOW.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAVE HAKAZE NOW THAT SHE'S JUST BONES

... I CAN'T ACCEPT THE DEAL SO EASILY.

IF YOU FIND THAT METHOD SATISFAC-TORY,

WILL YOU JOIN US AGAIN?

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN ON THAT?

ONCE HAKAZE-SAN IS HERE WITH US,

I'LL TELL YOU.

WILL YOU TELL ME WHO THE BOYFRIEND WAS WHEN I COME OVER?

SHOW ME HOW YOU OVERCOME THE IMPOSSIBLE.

FINE.

SPEAK ON.

HEY,

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!

LIKE HELL THAT DEAL IS GOING TO WORK!

THEN IT WON'T CHANGE YOUR ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION.

WHY THE PANIC?

Π".

HEY, C'MON.

ACCORDING TO YOU, HAKAZE IS DEAD, RIGHT?

WHY NOT LISTEN TO HIS STORY?

WE HAVE TO KILL TIME UNTIL YOU BRING AIKA'S MURDERER HERE, ANYWAY.

...OKAY.

YOSHINO,

GO ON.

LET'S HEAR IT.

IF YOU CAN'T CONVINCE ME IN THAT TIME, THE DEAL IS THROUGH.

BUT ONLY UNTIL AIKA'S MURDERER IS BROUGHT HERE.

I WOULDN'T LIKE HAVING SAMON USING THE MURDERER AS A SHIELD FOR NEGOTIATIONS LATER, EITHER.

I'M NOT THAT PATIENT OF A GUY TO WAIT FOR HAKAZE TO RETURN WHEN THE MURDERER IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

I DON'T MIND.

SURE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE LAWS SURROUNDING US?

JUST THE MENTION OF A "BOYFRIEND" TURNED THE SITUATION UPSIDE DOWN.

TO THINK SHE HAD SO MUCH INFLUENCE.

THIS GIRL CALLED AIKA

OKAY,

LET ME START MY EXPLANA-TION.

絶園のテンペスト

ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

BLACK WING

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"YOU FOOLS!
I AND MY FELLOWS

ARE
MINISTERS OF
FATE."

<SHAKESPEARE'S TEMPEST,
ACT 3 SCENE 3>

CHAPTER 11:
HOW TO BUILD A TIME MACHINE

BOTH THIS WORLD AND ITS LAWS.

THE "TREE OF BEGINNING" CREATED

HAKAZE-SAN IS UNDER ITS UTMOST PROTECTION.

BASICALLY, THIS MEANS THAT THE RULES OF THIS WORLD ARE ON HER SIDE.

MAHIRO,

WOULDN'T IT BE BECAUSE THE "TREE OF BEGINNING" HASN'T FULLY AWAKENED YET,

THEREFORE MAKING THIS POSSIBLE?

WHY, THEN, DO YOU THINK

THAT IT CURRENTLY LOOKS LIKE HAKAZE-SAN HAS NO CHANCE OF WINNING?

THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN", OPPOSING THE "TREE OF BEGINNING", GREW THIS BIG,

SO IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF THE LAWS BECAME A BIT FLAWED.

YOU HAVE A POINT.

THAT'S WHY HAKAZE-SAN IS CURRENTLY AT A DISADVANTAGE.

BUT DISADVANTAGE

DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN DEFEAT.

TELL ME,

WHY EXACTLY ARE WE HERE?

AND YOU'RE BRUSHING OFF THE FACT THAT YOU, WHO IS CONNECTED TO ALL THIS,

PICKED UP THE DOLL AT THE BEACH AS A MERE COINCI-DENCE?

IF NOT FOR YOU, WE WOULD NEVER EVEN HAVE COME HERE.

IF NOT FOR YOU, WE WOULDN'T HAVE LENT HAKAZE-SAN A HAND.

.....

THIS IS JUST TOO COINCIDEN-TAL!

THIS MUST BE THE LAWS OF THE "TREE OF BEGINNING" AT WORK, TO LET HAKAZE-SAN STAND VICTORIOUS.

ALSO,

ISN'T KUSARIBE SAMON'S REACTION TO THIS STRANGE?

.....
DAMN.

HE SURE HAS A WAY WITH WORDS...

EVEN IF HE'S A MAGICIAN AND ALL, IS THAT REALLY THE FIRST POSSIBILITY YOU'D COME UP WITH?

HE TOLD US THAT THIS TALISMAN IS CROSS-ING OVER TIME

AND CONNECT-ING US WITH HAKAZE-SAN.

INDEED, NOW THAT HE MEN-TIONS IT....

YEAH, NORMALLY ONE WOULDN'T BELIEVE

IN A TIME GAP SO EASILY.

"!!"

WHY SUCH A CRAZY PREDICTION?

THAT MEANS, IT WAS IN HIS PREDICTIONS THAT PEOPLE LIKE US WOULD COME HERE.

IT ONLY LEAVES ME WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT HE PREDICTED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT SOMEONE WOULD MAKE CONTACT WITH HAKAZE-SAN, BYPASSING THE BOUNDARIES OF TIME.

AND HAD TO THINK OF A COUNTERMEASURE.

BECAUSE HE FEARED THIS FACT

THAT HIS VICTORY STILL ISN'T SET IN STONE?

HIM FEARING THIS SITUATION MEANS

MHM.

カ

YEAH. BASICALLY

WHO IS CURRENTLY TRAPPED IN A "CAGE OF TIME".

THERE IS A WAY TO BRING BACK HAKAZE-SAN

HE WANTED US TO BELIEVE THERE IS NO SUCH WAY,

TRICK THIS WORLD'S LAWS AND GAIN VICTORY LIKE THAT.

Fri

JUST A FEW.

.....

YOU'RE CARRYING A TALISMAN, AREN'T YOU?

IF YOU TREASURE THAT BODY OF YOURS, PULL BACK!

THE DEFENSE MAGIC I HAVE ACTIVATED JUST NOW WON'T BE DEFEATED BY THE PRINCESS' TALISMANS, EVEN IF YOU HAD A HUNDRED.

I HAVE TO FIGHT BACK NOW. ELSE I WON'T CALM DOWN.

I'VE ALREADY HAD TWO PAINFUL EXPERIENCES WITH MAGIC.

THEREFORE,

LET ME HEAR YOUR NAME,

MAGICIAN.

KUSARIBE NATSUMURA.

NOT A NAME YOU NEED TO REMEMBER.

FAIR AND SQUARE!

THEN, LET US FIGHT.

DESPITE HAVING NO CHANCE OF WINNING AGAINST HAKAZE, WHO THE LAWS SIDE WITH?

SINCE THERE WAS STILL A BIT OF HOPE,

SO YOU MEAN HE MADE US GIVE UP OUR RESISTANCE, OUR CHANCE OF VICTORY, ON OUR OWN,

INTEREST-ING.

THAT WAS HIS AIM.

AFTER GETTING TRAPPED IN A "CAGE OF TIME".

YEAH, BECAUSE ONE WOULD USUALLY ONLY DE-SPAIR

AS LONG AS HE COULD BUY TIME FOR THE RESURREC-TION, THE REST DIDN'T MATTER.

THAT WAS HIS PLAN.

WHILE SHE'S IN DESPAIR, HE PLANNED TO RESURRECT THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN".

IT WOULD BE TOO LATE.

EVEN IF SHE WAS TO LATER REAL-IZE IT'S POS-SIBLE FOR HER TO RETURN.

SAMON-SAN?

ISN'T IT SO,

...INDEED, THAT WAS MY PLAN!

PUTTING HER AT A DISADVANTAGE WAS THE BEST I COULD DO.

I CANNOT WIN AGAINST THE PRINCESS WHO HAS THIS WORLD'S LAWS ON HER SIDE.

BEYOND THAT, HER DOLL WASHING UP ON THE SHORE

AND SOMEONE PICKING IT UP AND COMING HERE, IT WAS ALL INCLUDED IN MY PLAN.

...BUT SOMEHOW, IT SUCCEEDED.

I WASN'T SURE IF IT WOULD WORK WELL ...

MY PLAN TO TRICK BOTH THE PRINCESS AND THE WORLD'S LAWS WORKED PERFECTLY!

I WRECKED MY BRAIN FOR THIS PLAN.

AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT HIM DISCOVERING ALL THIS....

IS ALSO THE LAWS AT WORK, SIDING WITH THE PRINCESS!?

MY PLAN HASN'T FULLY BEEN EXPOSED YET.

...?

BUT

IT'S NOT COMPLETELY BROKEN YET.

I SEE. I UNDER-STAND YOUR LOGIC.

BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T SOLVED THE MAIN PROB-LEM.

WHY DO YOU THINK I HAD TO ACCEPT MY DEFEAT?

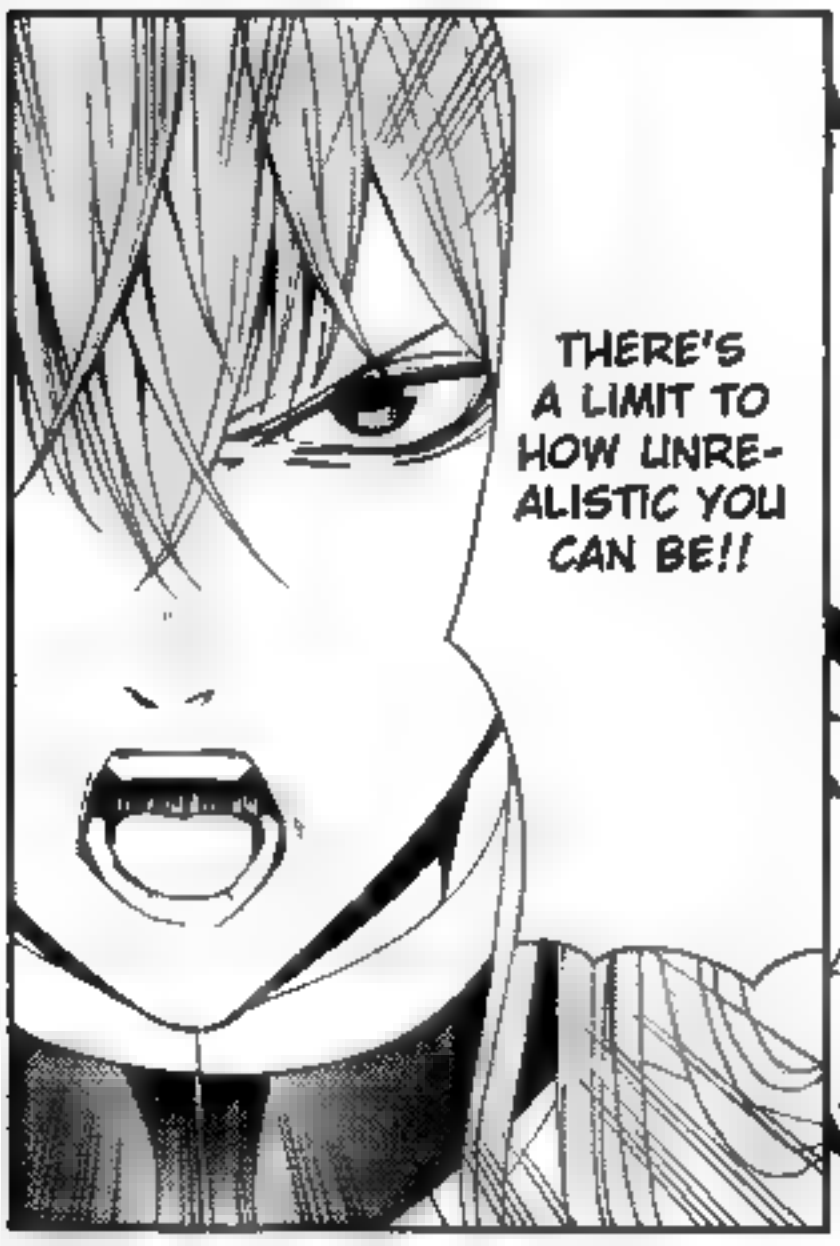
YOSHINO,

ALL OF WHAT YOU HAVE SAID IS JUST YOUR TRAIN OF THOUGHT.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO BRING HER BACK HERE?

IT'S A FACT THAT THE PRIN-CESS IS TRAPPED IN THE TIME OF TWO YEARS AGO.

YET YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN BREAK THIS ABSOLUTE CAGE OF TIME?
WE ALREADY CONFIRMED THAT SHE DIED ON THAT ISLAND AND BROUGHT HER BONES HERE!


THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW UNREALISTIC YOU CAN BE!!

IT CAN'T BE DONE!
YOUR HYPOTHESIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A DREAM!

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN BREAK THAT CAGE OF TIME EITHER.
INDEED, YOSHINO.

I WON'T COME OVER TO YOUR SIDE.

UNLESS YOU CAN SHOW ME SOME PROOF OR A CONCRETE METHOD ON HOW TO BREAK IT,

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

IF YOU BROKE IT, THE PAST WOULD CHANGE.

THAT WOULD MEAN A TIME PARADOX.

THAT'S THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSION.

THIS IS GOOD.

"THE PRINCESS HAS THE POSSIBILITY TO DEFINITELY STAND VICTORI-OUS", THAT IS LAW OF THIS WORLD.

WE CANNOT OPPOSE THAT.

HOW-EVER,

IT IS ACTUALLY TRUE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO BREAK THE CAGE OF TIME.

BUT THAT WAS THE WAY TO PREVENT THE "TREE OF BEGINNING" FROM AWAKENING.

IT'S A METHOD THAT [redacted] CLAN DEVELOPED FOR THREE GENERATIONS AND FINALLY MANAGED TO COMPLETE.

RATHER, YOU COULD SAY THAT I SUCCEEDED IN STRANDING THE PRINCESS ON THAT ISLAND ONLY BECAUSE A WAY TO BREAK THE CAGE EXISTED.

SHE MIGHT BE THE PRINCESS,

BUT SHE WON'T GET TO THE ROOT OF IT SO EASILY.

AND THIS BOY, WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT MAGIC,

COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE FIGURED IT OUT IN JUST A FEW HOURS!

I CAN BREAK THE CAGE OF TIME.

Λ..

NO, RATHER, THE CAGE OF TIME ITSELF IS JUST A FALSITY. IT IS NO TIME PARADOX.

カラーン!!

HUH?

THERE IS NO CAGE OF TIME!

DON'T BE FOOLED, MAHIRO!

WE ARE JUST BEING MISLED INTO BELIEVING

THAT A TWO YEAR GAP EXISTS BETWEEN HERE AND THE ISLAND!

HAH

THE MISSY ISN'T BAD.

...AGAIN!

SHE'S STOPPING NATSUMURA SPLENDIDLY WITH THE LIMITED TALISMANS SHE HAS.

I, AN EXPERT IN DEFENSE MAGIC, SHOULD HAVE THE UPPER HAND.

BUT WHY IS IT THAT SHE GIVES ME SUCH A HARD TIME?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

MAKE IT BROAD AND THICK AND IT EXPIRES FAST.

IF YOU KEEP IT SMALL AND THIN, IT LASTS LONGER.

A DEFENSE FIELD IS DEFINED BY ITS RANGE AND THICKNESS.

ITS DURATION DEPENDS ON THESE FACTORS.

SO THAT IT WOULD DAMAGE YOU.

JUST NOW, I ONLY FOCUSED A DEFENSE FIELD ON THE VERY TIP OF MY SPEAR

フネネ・・・

I MAY ONLY HAVE A FEW TALISMANS,

BUT IF I USE THEM LIKE THIS, THEY [illegible] LONG.

HOWEVER,

YOU CANNOT PROTECT YOUR BODY LIKE THAT.

THERE.

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I HAVE THE UPPER HAND.

BUT IN TERMS OF BATTLE SENSE AND EXPERIENCE,

YOUR MAGIC MIGHT BE BETTER,

FIELD, FULL POWER!

SWIFT MOVEMENT!

THERE IS NO NEED TO PROTECT MYSELF WITH MAGIC.

IF I JUST DODGE ALL YOUR AT-TACKS,

ヒュウウウウ..

IT MIGHT BE MAGIC, BUT ONCE YOU KNOW ITS RULES, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

KUSARIBE NATSUMURA,

YOU ARE NOT MY ENEMY!

ドオオオオン

ドオン

ゴオオオオ

THE ARMY RESUMED THEIR ATTACK ON THE BARRIER, HUH.

ヒュオオオ

ゴオオオオ

JUST WHAT ARE THE WORLD'S LAWS AFTER?

WHAT A STRANGE DEVELOP-MENT.

TRAPPED IN TIME 2 YEARS AGO!

THE PRINCESS IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT,

WHAT IS HE SAYING?

IT IS NOT A FALSITY. OUR TIMES REALLY ARE OFF!

...YEAH.

IS THAT CORRECT?

HAKAZE-SAN, YOU SPENT ABOUT 4 MONTHS ON THAT ISLAND.

HAKAZE-SAN,

I

BUT,

I PROPERLY COUNTED THE DAYS.

THAT'S WHY I AM AWARE OF THE TWO YEAR GAP BETWEEN HERE AND OVER THERE.

IT TOOK TO GET YOU THERE INTO ACCOUNT. HAVE YOU?

YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN THE TIME

ACCORDING TO KUSARIBE SAMON, HE PUT YOU TO SLEEP

AND DUMPED YOU ON THAT ISLAND IN A BARREL AFTER A FEW DAYS. THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, RIGHT?

.....!

BUT WHAT IF HE HAD YOU SLEEPING HERE FOR TWO YEARS

AND ONLY THEN PUT YOU INTO THE BARREL AND DUMPED YOU ON THE ISLAND?

YOU WERE PUT TO SLEEP

AND DIDN'T NOTICE TWO YEARS HAD PASSED.

AH ...

AHH!!

WHEN YOU AWOKE, THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF ANYTHING HAVING CHANGED.

THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE ON AN INHAB-ITANT ISLAND.

SO, IF YOU SPOKE THROUGH THIS DOLL WITH US,

WITH YOUR TWISTED SENSE OF TIME

Ah...

I WOULD BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE FROM A WORLD TWO YEARS AHEAD....!

AND WHEN YOU SPEAK WITH SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW YOU SLEPT FOR TWO YEARS,

OBVIOUSLY THE DATE WILL DIFFER.

YEP.

OF COURSE ONE WOULD THINK THAT THE DOLL CROSSES TIME.

EVEN IF YOU'RE STILL IN THE SAME TIME, YOU'RE NOT MEETING IN PERSON.

IT'S A PSYCHOLOGICAL PSEUDO CAGE!

THIS "CAGE OF TIME" ISN'T A MATERIAL CAGE.

THAT DUDE JUNICHIROU SAID

THEY WERE HAKAZE'S.

THEN

WHAT ABOUT THESE BONES?

……

DON'T YOU THINK THEY COULD MAKE A PERFECT REPLICA

ﾌｧｻｯ

BY GETTING THE SHAPE OF THE BONES THROUGH X-RAY?

IN THE TWO YEARS HAKAZE WAS ASLEEP,

THEY COULD DO WHATEVER THEY WANTED WITH HER BODY.

カラン

THOSE BONES ARE ALSO

カシャン

JUST SOME PROPS TO DECEIVE US.

カシャン

WITH A BIT OF MAGIC AND THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT, IT'S POSSIBLE.

ELSE, HAKAZE-SAN WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN FOOLED.

HM

BUT,

IT'S QUITE DIFFICULT TO PUT A PERSON TO SLEEP

FOR TWO YEARS AND PREVENT THEM FROM NOTICING THE FLOW OF TIME,

LOOKS LIKE

THEY AT LEAST WEREN'T STINGY ABOUT THE TIME.

GUESS SO....

.....

WITH THAT, OUR CONDITIONS FOR VICTORY ARE BACK TO THE WAY HAKAZE-SAN SET THEM.

MAHIRO,

AND THIS TALISMAN GETS ACTIVATED

ISN'T TRAPPED IN A "CAGE OF TIME"...

IF HAKAZE-SAN

EXACTLY WHAT WE'D PLANNED TO BEGIN WITH.

SO, WITHOUT ANY EFFORT, WITH JUST A SINGLE PUSH OF A TRIGGER, I CAN SETTLE HAKAZE'S VICTORY.

THAT BASTARD SAMON HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO BRING HER BACK HERE.

THOSE BONES ARE ALL THAT IS LEFT OF HER!

NO, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! WE NEVER PUT THE PRINCESS TO SLEEP FOR TWO YEARS!

A BIG, FAT LIE!

IT'S A LIE!

I WON'T LET THE TALISMAN ACTIVATE BASED ON SOME STUPID REASONING LIKE THAT!

THIS IS NO JOKE!

WHA--

GOT ANY PROOF?

IS JUST ABSURD.

EVEN IF IT'S MAGIC AND ALL, A CONVERSATION THROUGH TIME

THERE IS NO PROOF OF A TIME GAP.

SINCE WE CANNOT TRUST HAKAZE-SAN'S SENSE OF TIME,

BELIEVING THIS WOULD BE STRANGE.

AT THIS POINT,

IT'S NOT ABOUT ABSURDITY ANYMORE!

IF NOT....!

BUT NOW THAT THE PRINCESS' WORDS LOST THEIR CREDIBILITY, I NEED TO PROVE IT OTHERWISE!

FIRST OFF, IT'S REALLY TRUE THAT IT'S CROSSING TIME!

MAHIRO, ACTIVATE THE TALIS-MAN!

THEN HAKAZE-SAN CAN BE SAVED!

YOUR WISH WILL ALSO BE GRANTED.

WE CAN AVOID ANY MORE TRAGEDIES.

DÄMN!!

-BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER!

THIS BOY IS TOTALLY BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE...

SO IF HE SHOULD ACTIVATE THAT TALISMAN, I ACTUALLY CAN BRING HER BACK.

I'D BE FORCED TO BRING HER BACK!

I HAVE WAYS OF GETTING THE PRINCESS BACK HERE.

WHEN THE BOY BELIEVES IN THAT AND ACTIVATES THE TALISMAN

LOGIC DOESN'T MATTER.

IT'S TOTALLY ABSURD, BUT THE RESULT DOESN'T CHANGE!

IT'S THE PRINCESS' WIN!

HOW CUNNING!

I CANNOT ALLOW THIS!

YOU PLAN TO BREAK THE REAL CAGE OF TIME, THE CREATION OF WHICH REQUIRED THE FULL POWER OF THE ENTIRE CLAN, WITH SUCH A PLOY?

BUT HOW DO I PROVE THE TIME GAP TO THEM...!?

....GOOD, HE'S PAN-ICKING!

WE CAN WIN!

IF I CAN BRING MAHIRO AND HAKAZE-SAN TO MAKE THEIR MOVES IN THE MEAN-TIME

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WIN...!

絶園のテンペスト

ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

BLACK WING

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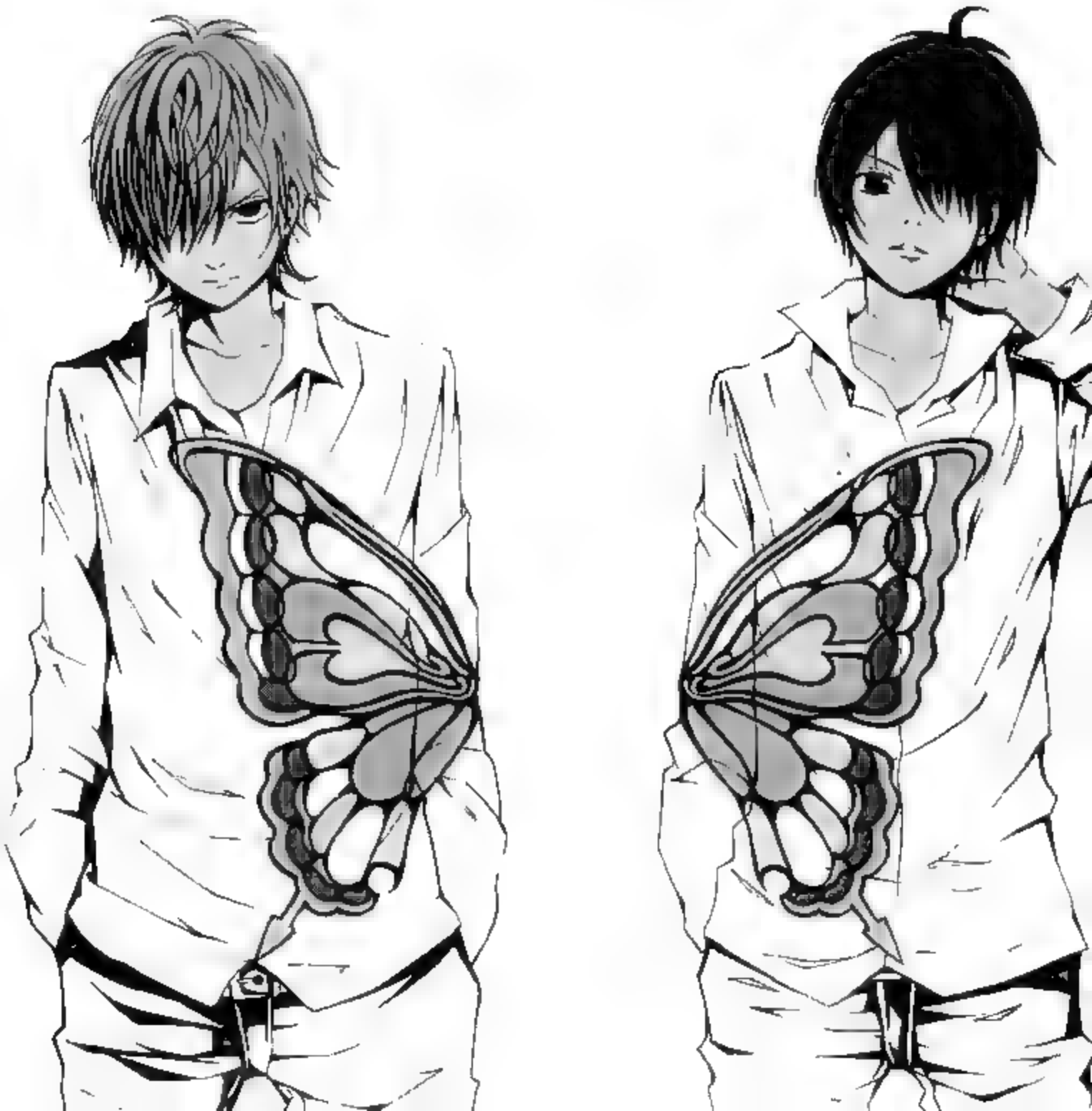
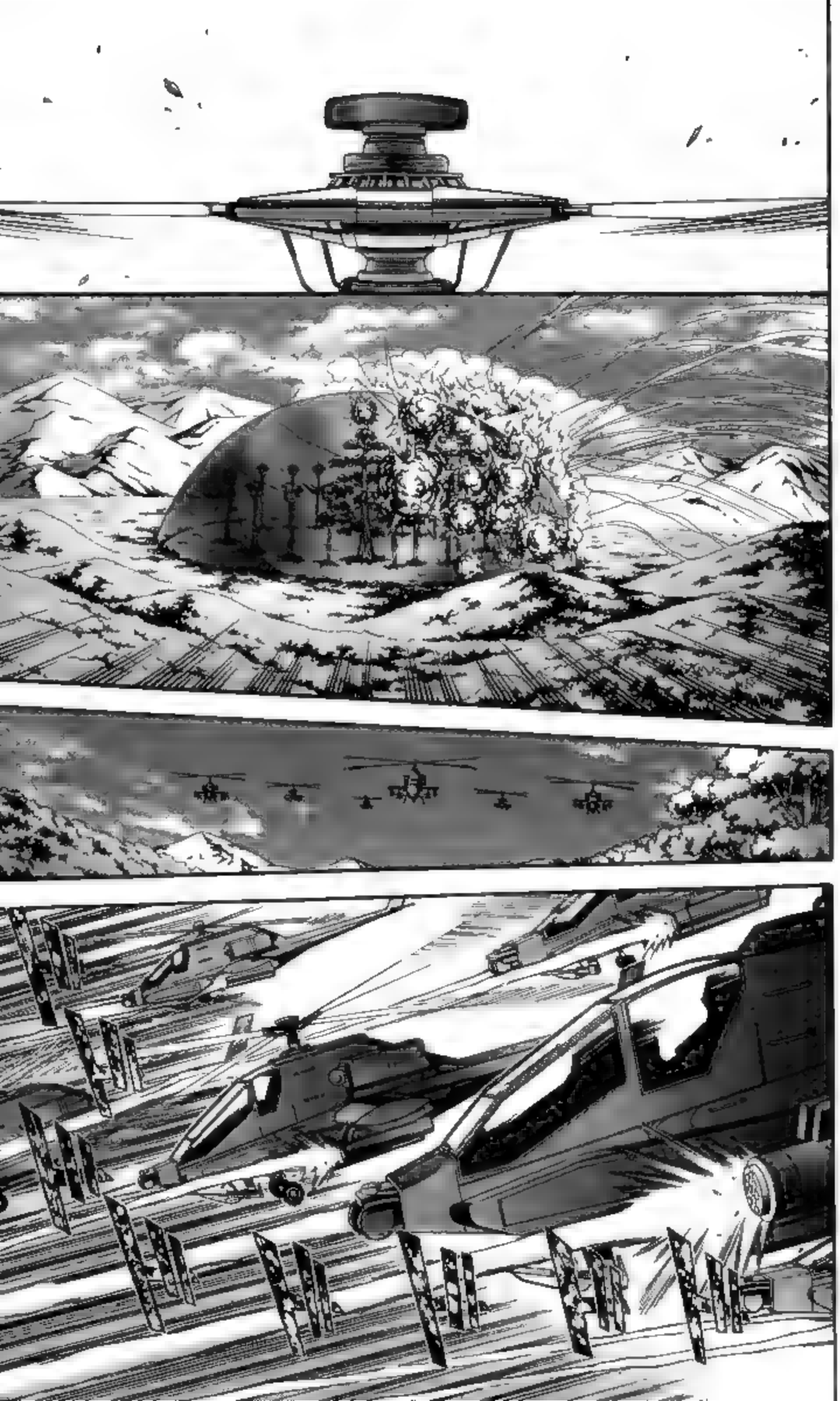
"THIS IS AS STRANGE A MAZE
AS E'ER MEN TROD

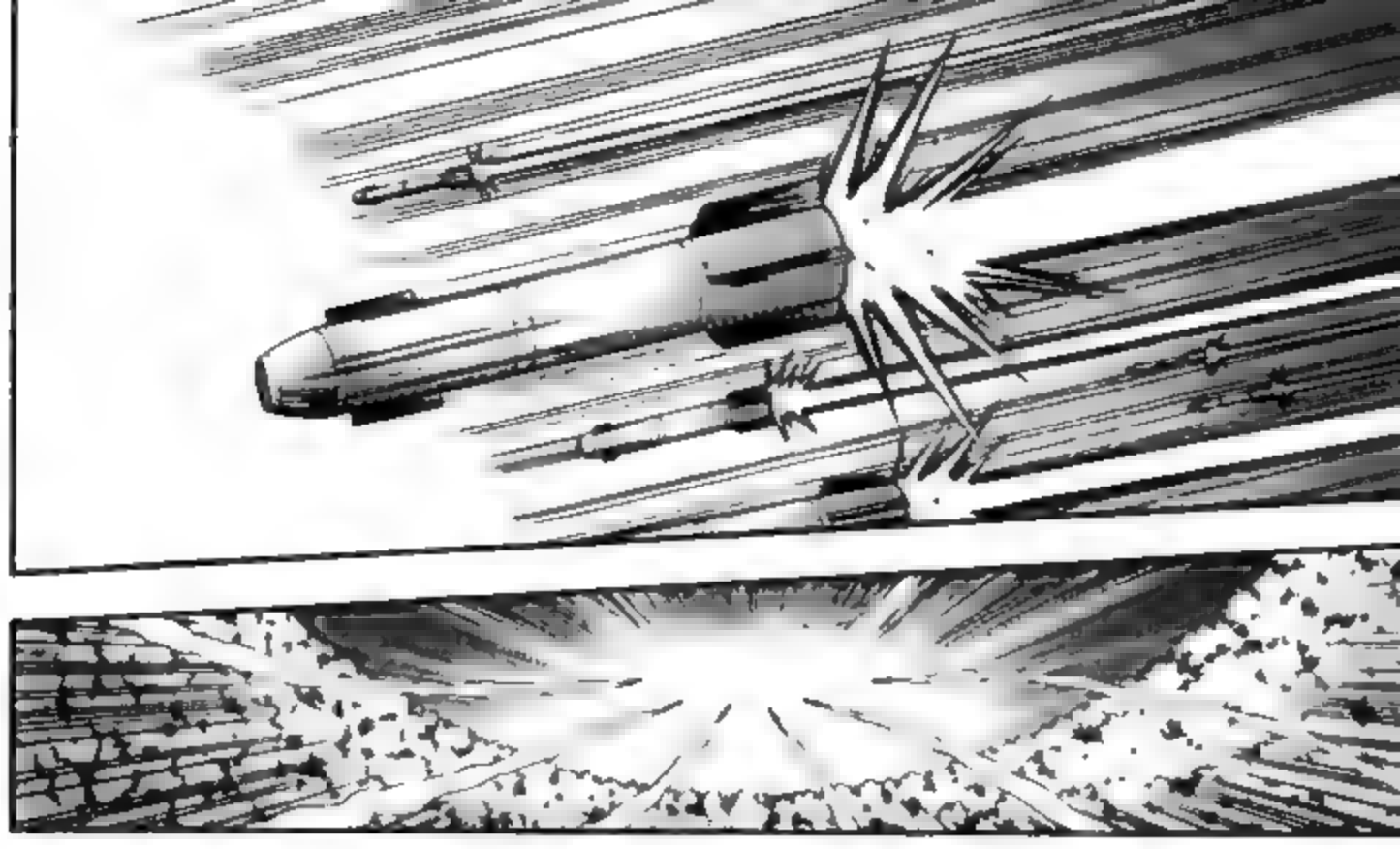
AND THERE IS IN THIS BUSINESS
MORE THAN NATURE
WAS EVER CONDUCT OF..."

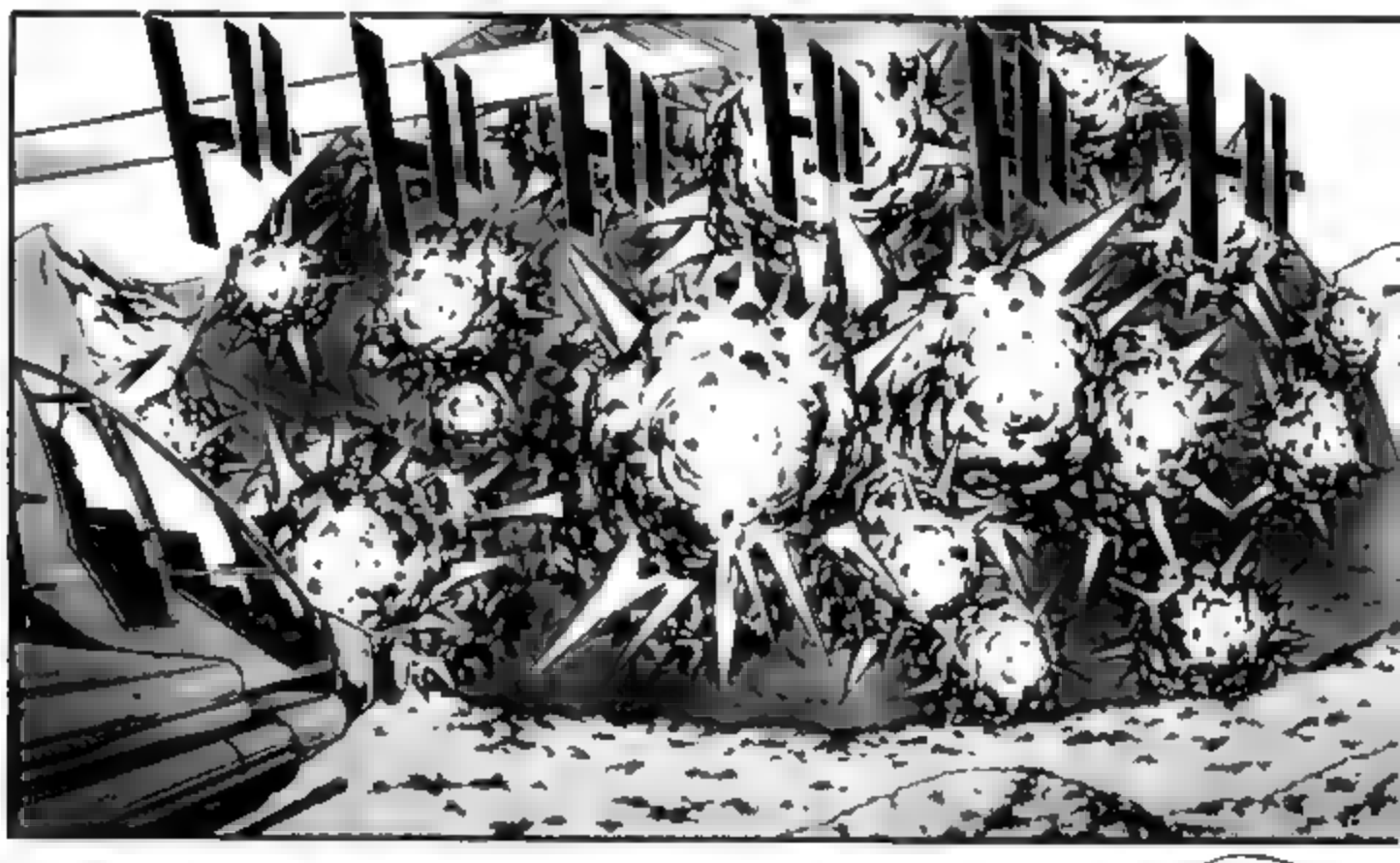
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE,
"The Tempest", Act V, Scene I



THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER







DO NOT HOLD BACK YOUR BULLETS!
DO NOT FEAR! DO NOT COWER!
THE CHAOS IS ALMOST UNDER CONTROL!
THE MAGICIAN WITH THE LANCE HAS BEEN SEALED OFF!

The military's attack was strengthened...?!
Just what is Natsumura doing?!
AAAA AHHH !!!

GOT YOU!!

YOU'RE STILL JUST AN AMATEUR, HUH, MAGI-CIAN?!
WHAT ?!
UGH...

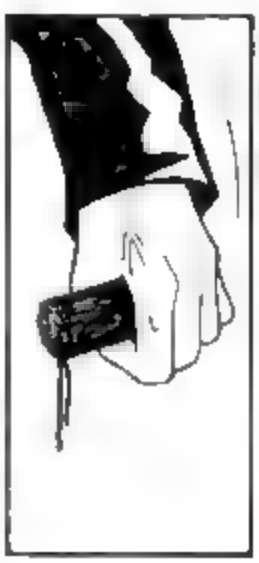
キュルルル
CHANGING WEAPONS TO DESTROY THE OPPONENT'S RHYTHM IS AN ELEMENTARY BATTLE TACTIC, NO?
YOU WERE JUST ABOUT TO GET USED TO SPEAR ATTACKS, WEREN'T YOU?
TO THINK THAT YOU'D FALL FOR IT...
IT'S PROOF THAT YOU LACK ACTUAL BATTLE EXPERIENCE.
Once he calms down, all his openings will be gone.
I have to try my best to keep him aggravated.
I don't have many talismans.
Even though I said that...

THE MAGICIAN IS OUT OF THE PICTURE, THAT'S IT!
LET'S TAKE THIS CHANCE TO GIVE THEM ALL THE FIREPOWER WE'VE GOT!
...THEY CAME...

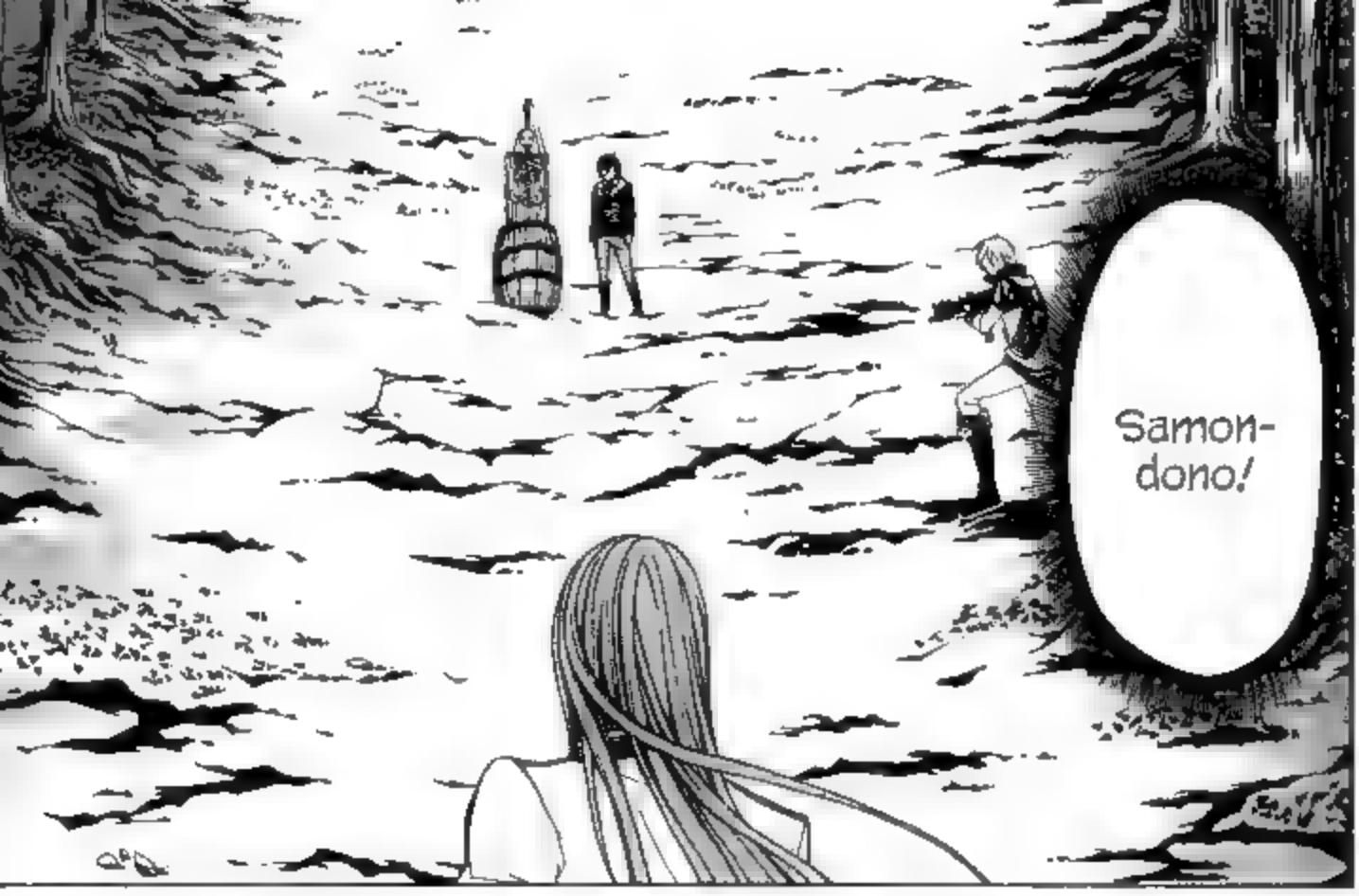
THE AIR UNIT!

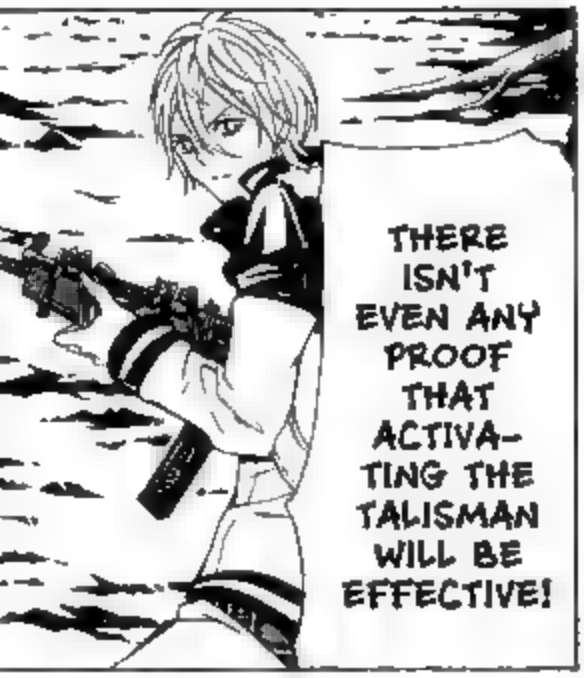
HEY, MAGICIANS!
WE HAVE PLENTY OF FIREPOWER LEFT!

What's happening...?!



TETSUMA-DONO!
THE FIRST LAYER OF THE BARRIER CAN'T HOLD FOR MUCH LONGER!


Samon-
dono!


THERE ISN'T EVEN ANY PROOF THAT ACTIVA-TING THE TALISMAN WILL BE EFFECTIVE!

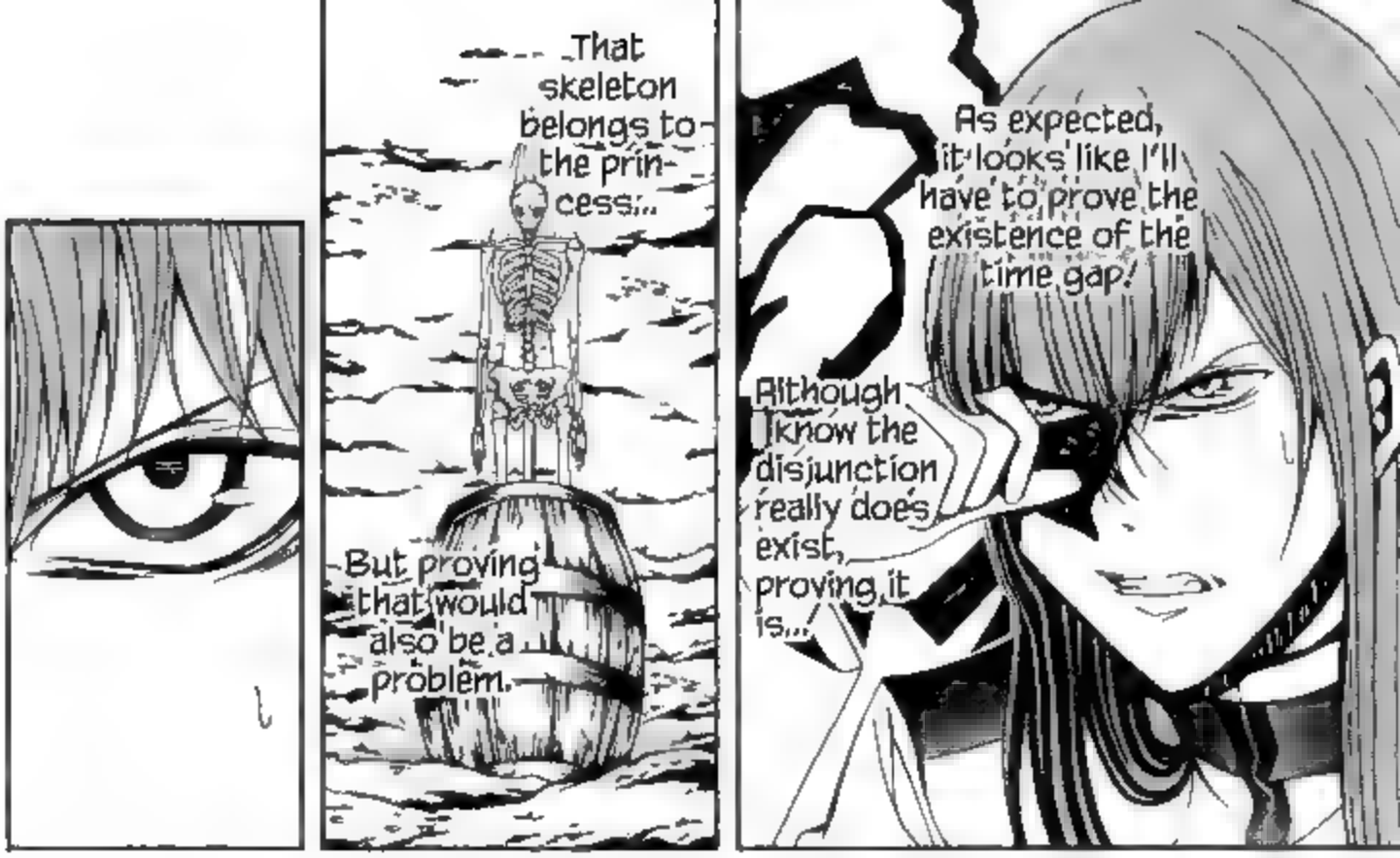
DON'T BE FOOLED!
YOUR FRIEND HASN'T PROVED THAT THERE'S NO TIME GAP!

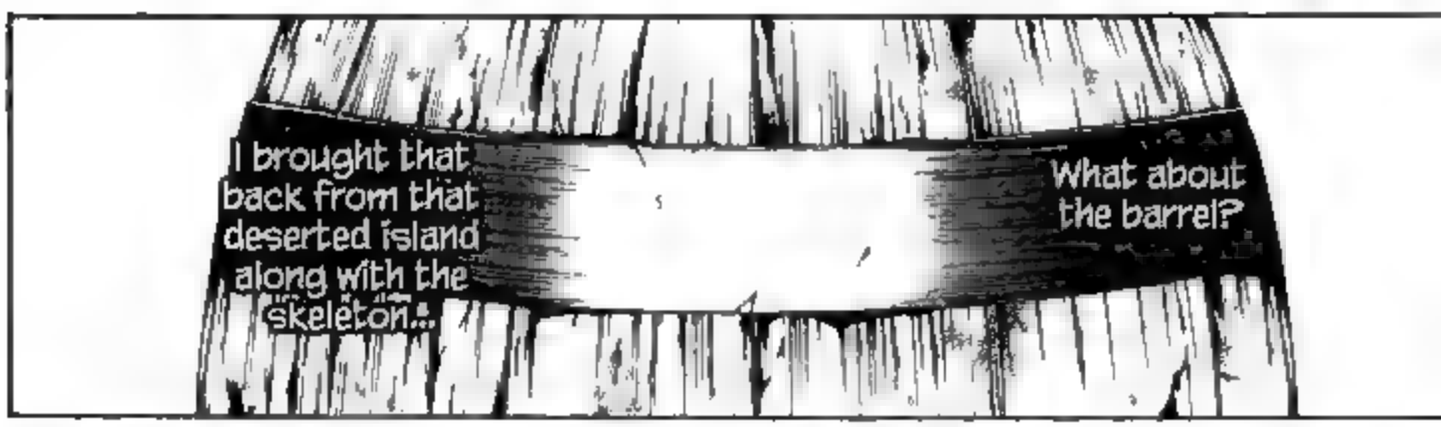
IN THIS CASE, THE BURDEN OF PRO-VING IT...
LIES ON YOU, THE ONE PRO-CLAIMING THAT THERE'S A TIME GAP!

AS FAR AS COMMON SENSE GOES, THE "ABSENCE" OF SOME-THING,
DOESN'T REQUIRE ANY PROOF!

IT'S INCONTRO-VERTIBLE LOGIC!
THAT'S JUST SOPH-ISTRY!
At this rate, if Samon has no further cards to play.
Then the conditions favor Yoshino...
Yoshino's theory sounds like a bluff, but it's also high-risk, to boot.
But there's no harm in at least letting him set it up.

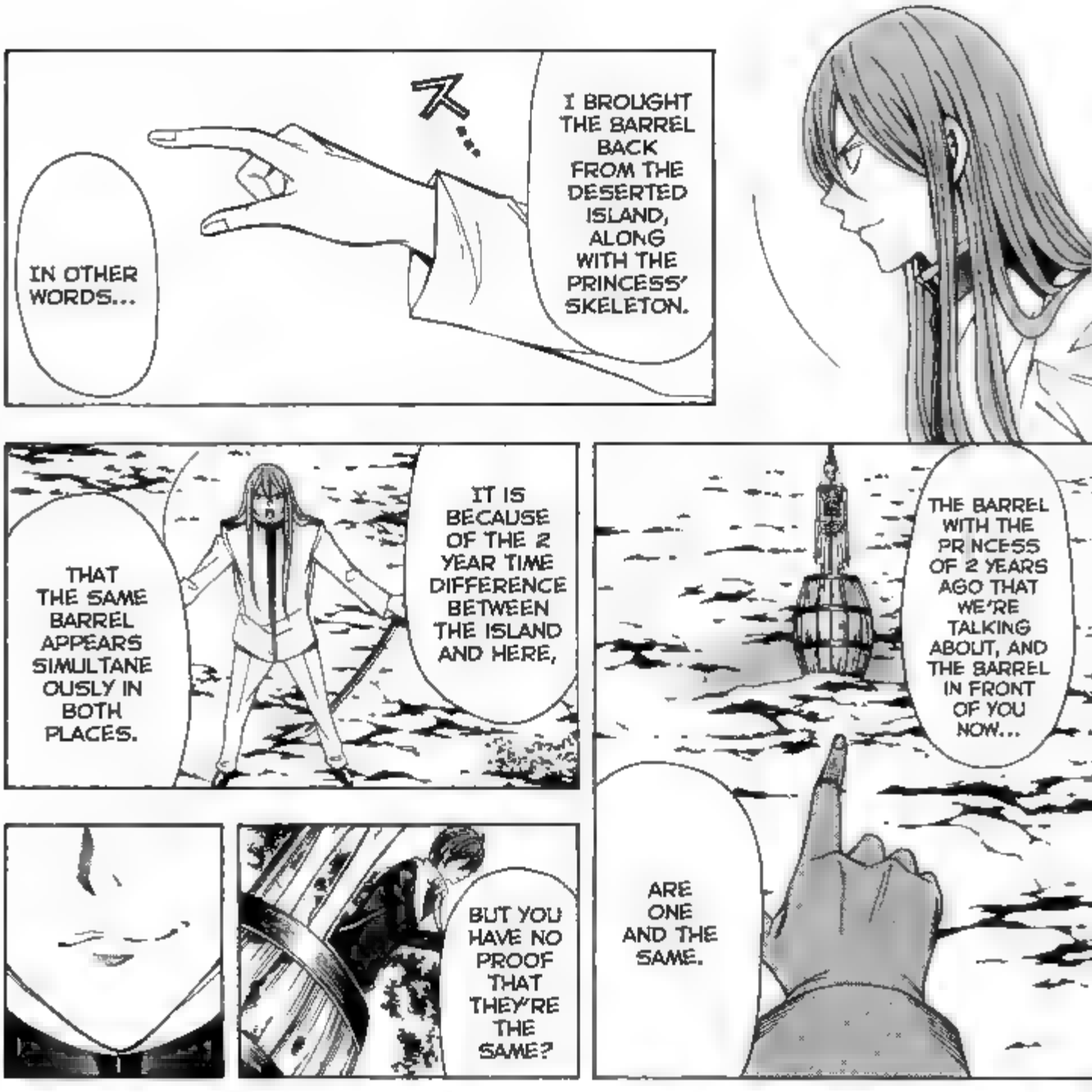
YOSHINO'S ARGUMENT IS RATHER PRECA-RIOUS...
BUT SAMON'S ATTITUDE IS LESS THAN TRUST-WORTHY, AS WELL.
IF SO...
IS IT BECAUSE THERE'S SOME SECRET TO THIS "CAGE OF TIME"?
THERE IS MERIT
IN KEEPING UP THIS PRESSU-RE.


As expected, it looks like I'll have to prove the existence of the time gap.
Although I know the disjunction really does exist, proving it is...
That skeleton belongs to the princess...
But proving that would also be a problem.


What about the barrel?
I brought that back from that deserted island along with the skeleton...

THE BARREL!

……
LET ME CONFIRM IT FIRST.
IS IT THERE, HAKAZE-SAN?
THERE HAS TO BE.
THERE'S A BARREL ON THE PRINCESS' END, RIGHT?
THERE'S A BARREL HERE.
YEAH.


I BROUGHT THE BARREL BACK FROM THE DESERTED ISLAND, ALONG WITH THE PRINCESS' SKELETON.
IN OTHER WORDS...
IT IS BECAUSE OF THE 2 YEAR TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ISLAND AND HERE,
THAT THE SAME BARREL APPEARS SIMULTANE OUSLY IN BOTH PLACES.
THE BARREL WITH THE PR NCESS OF 2 YEARS AGO THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, AND THE BARREL IN FRONT OF YOU NOW...
ARE ONE AND THE SAME.
BUT YOU HAVE NO PROOF THAT THEY'RE THE SAME?

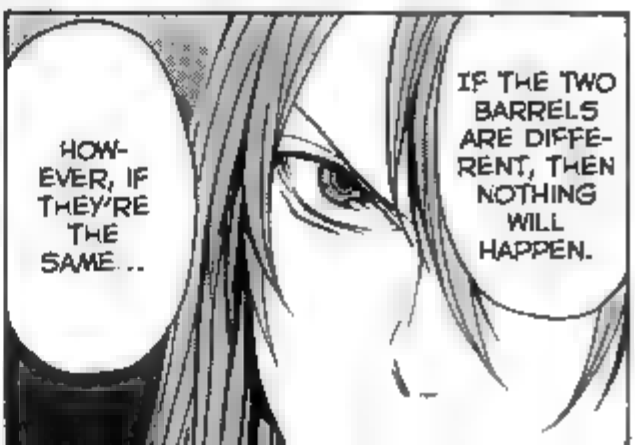
SO IF I WERE TO HAVE PROOF,
IT WOULD ALSO PROVE THE EXIS- TENCE OF THE TIME GAP AS WELL.

.....
WHAT WILL THAT DO?

AND HAVE HER CARVE IT ON THE BARREL SOME-WHERE.
DECIDE ON AN APPROP-RIATE WORD WITH THE PRINCESS ...

ANYTHING WILL DO.

WILL BE CARVED UPON THE BARREL BY YOUR S DE NOW.
THE WORDS THAT YOU CHOOSE...

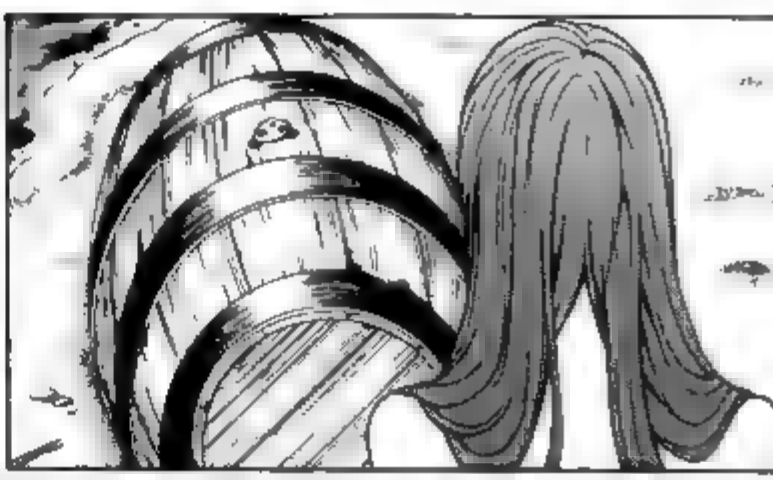

HOW-EVER, IF THEY'RE THE SAME...
IF THE TWO BARRELS ARE DIFFE-RENT, THEN NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.

HAKAZE-SAN, SOME-WHERE ON THE BARREL...
PLEASE CARVE THE WORD I'M ABOUT TO SAY NOW.
THAT'S FINE, RIGHT?
..UNDER-STOOD.

WELL THEN...
PLEASE WRITE THIS...
ボソ
ガリ

Towards the bottom of the barrel.
I've written it.
ボトッ
GOT IT.
スー

No matter what form it's in... the same word will be there.
This settles it!



T/N: ARIEL IS A SPIRIT THAT APPEARS IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S "THE TEMPEST" HE IS A SLAVE TO THE MAGICIAN PROSPERO FOR MOST OF THE PLAY

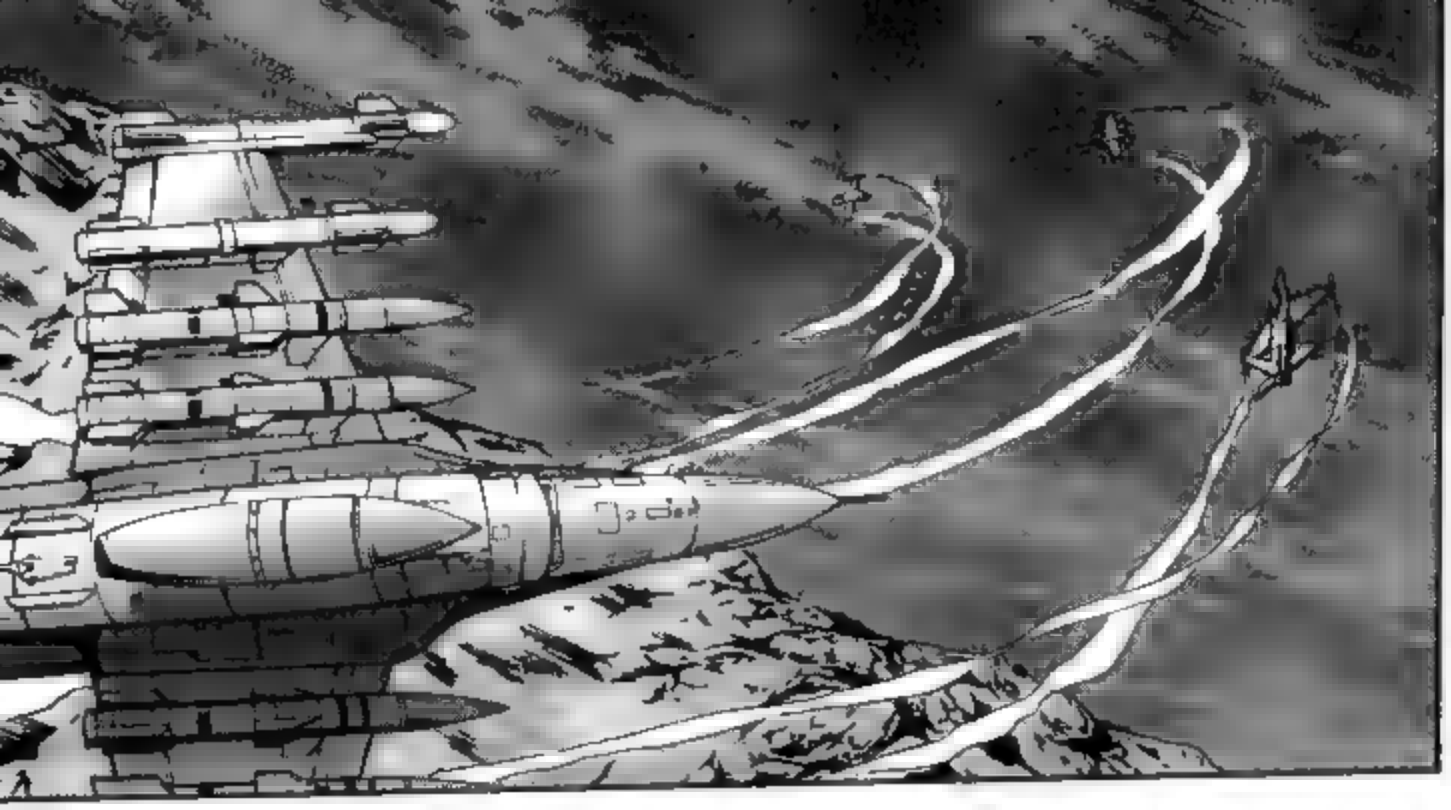
As expected, they're the same.

IT APPEARS THAT THE TWO BARRELS,
ARE INDEED ONE AND THE SAME.

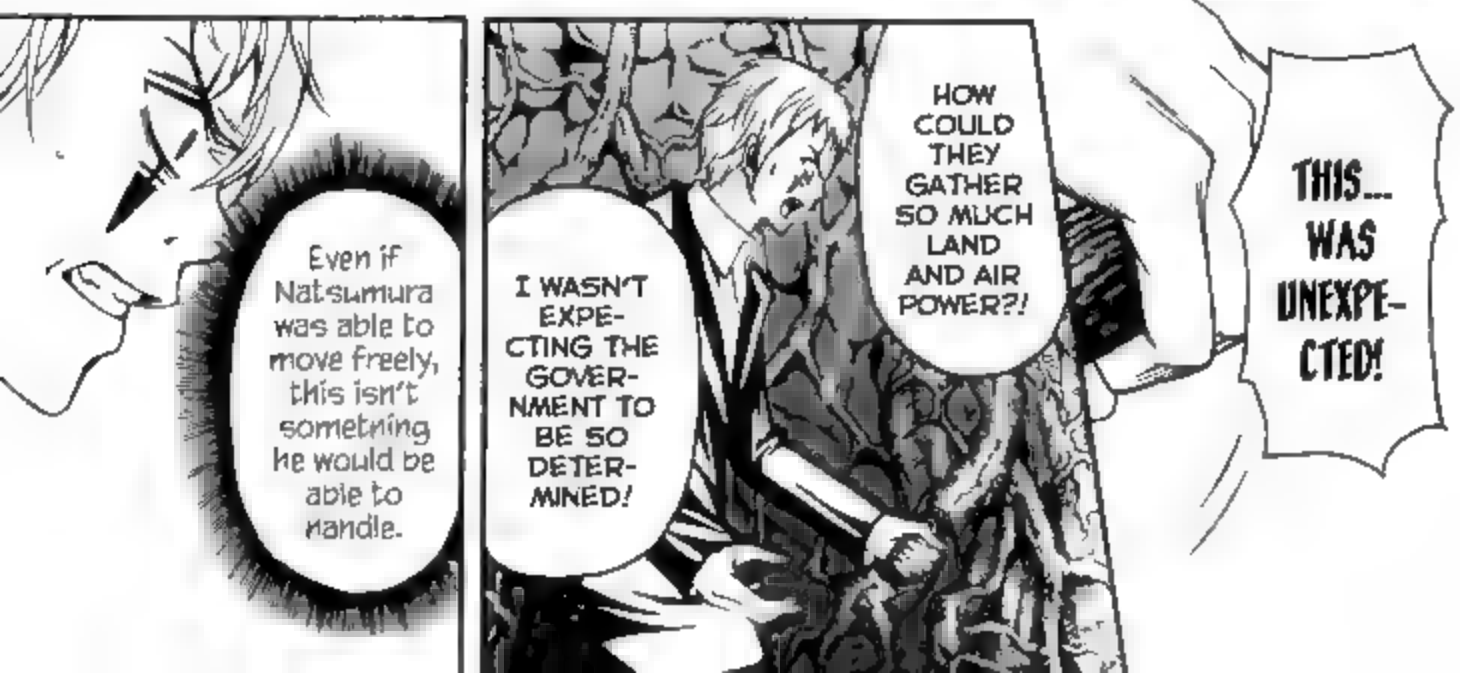
THE WORD CARVED HERE IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT I HAD SAID.
FOR SOME REASON, THERE'S AN EXCLAMATION MARK TOO, BUT..

THIS MEANS...

IT SEEMS WE'VE COME TO A CONCLU-SION.
チャ..
THERE IS NO WAY FOR THE SAME BARREL TO EXIST IN TWO DIFFERENT PLACES SIMUL-TANEOUSLY.
THAT IS, UNLESS THE DESER-TED ISLAND,
IS SEPARATED BY A LARGE GAP IN TIME!
YOU HAVE YOUR PROOF NOW, BOY.
YOUR SCHEME IS OVER!



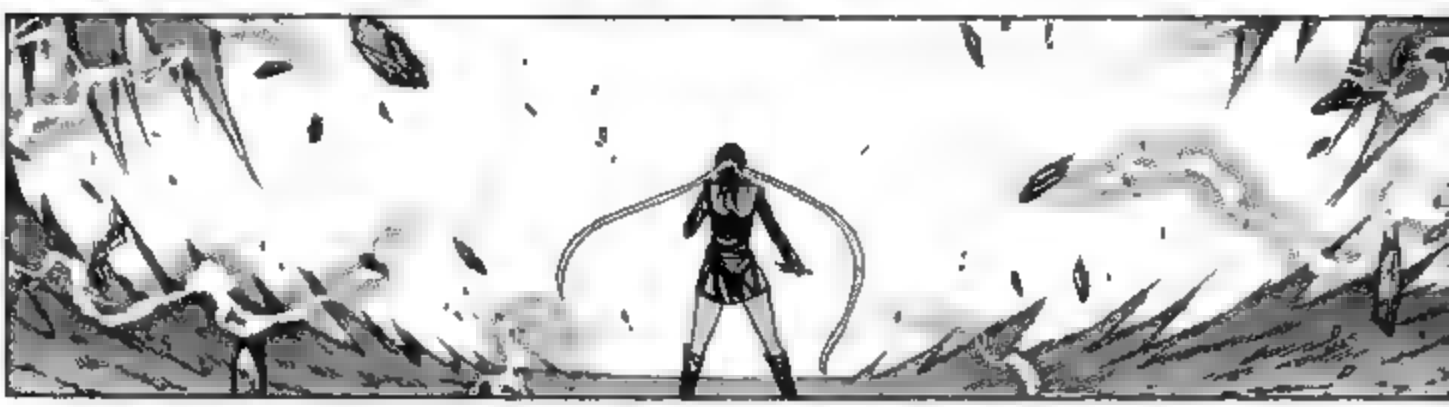
WE CAN DO THIS!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN TOUCH COMBAT PLANES FLYING AT THE SPEED OF SOUND!
EVEN IF YOU'RE A MAGICIAN ...


Even if Natsumura was able to move freely, this isn't something he would be able to handle.
I WASN'T EXPE-CTING THE GOVER-NMENT TO BE SO DETER-MINED!
HOW COULD THEY GATHER SO MUCH LAND AND AIR POWER?!
THIS... WAS UNEXPE-CTED!

TEMPORARILY GIVE UP ON MAINTAINING THE FIRST 2 LAYERS OF THE BARRIER! REASSIGN THOSE MEN TO THE REVIVAL CEREMONY!
SPEED UP THE CERE-MONY!
What should we do...
IF ALL GOES WELL, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SLAUGHTER EVEN A FORCE OF THAT SIZE IN AN INSTANT!
IF THE MILITARY COMES AT US LIKE THIS, WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
ﾊｧ ﾊｧ

I have enough talismans to last about another 5 minutes...
I need to distract him for double that amount of time...
...I'LL ADMIT IT.
WITH MY CURRENT SKILLS, I CANNOT BEAT YOU.
チャ
I WON'T LOSE LIKE THIS!
HOWEVER,

COMPLETE FIELD RELEASE!
MAXIMUM SIZE, MAXIMUM SPEED!



Ah... shit...

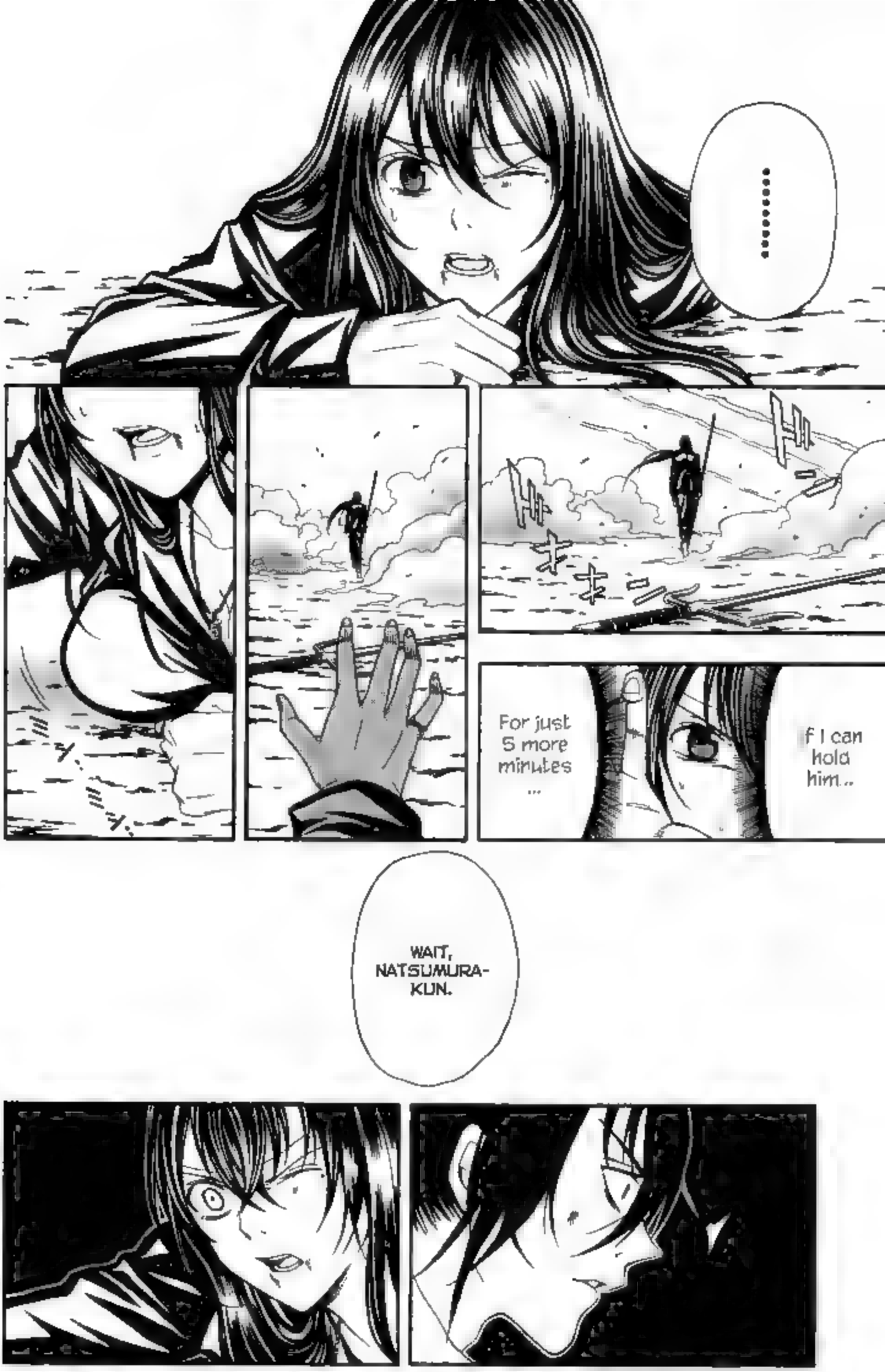
Shit...!
Even though I had predicted that he might rapidly enlarge his defensive field as a means of attack,
The speed was too much for me to counter...!

ARGH!

Wha... about half of my vertebrae got shattered?
But my internal organs seem to be ok?!

UGH...
ARGH...
ゴフッ

UGH ...
IF YOU MAKE A SUDDEN MOVE, YOUR ORGANS WILL RUPTURE.
THAT IS NOT A FATAL INJURY.
HOWEVER...
MY REGARDS TO YOU.
WITH THIS BATTLE, MY SIDE HAS LOST MUCH OF ITS MAGICAL DEFENSIVE STRENGTH.
ﾄﾞﾛﾛ
REST.
THIS BATTLE WILL SOON BE OVER.
I CAN'T SAY THAT THIS IS OUR VICTORY.
IT WOULD TAKE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF EFFORT TO TRY AND DEFLECT THE MILITARY'S ATTACK AGAIN.


.....
For just 5 more minutes ...
If I can hold him...
WAIT, NATSUMURA-KUN.

Hey!

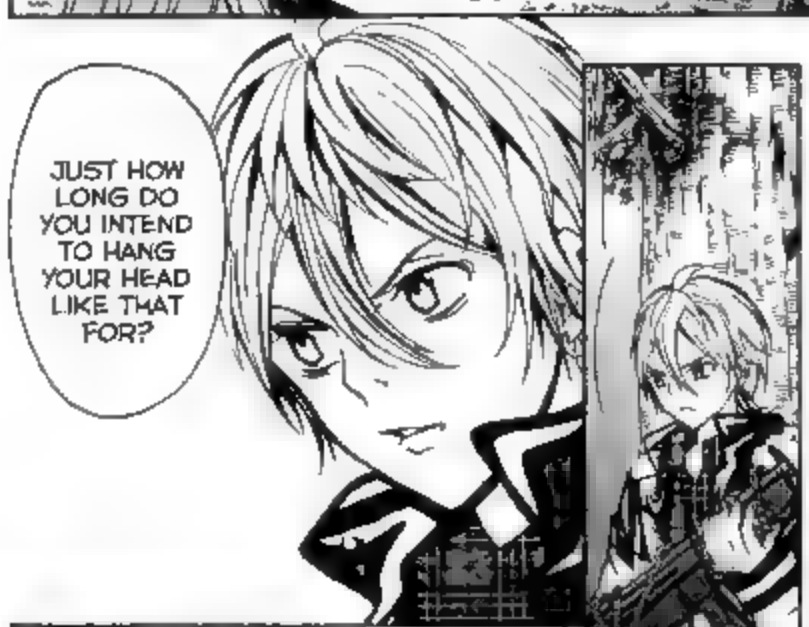
せんべい

JUNI-
CHIROU
...
...
DONO!

I HAVE
SNACKS
HERE!
KEEP ME
COMPANY A
LITTLE BIT
LONGER!

WITH THIS,
YOUR DEALINGS WITH YOUR FRIEND ARE OVER.

Ah...


JUST HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO HANG YOUR HEAD LIKE THAT FOR?

YOU'D BE BEST NOT TO CARELESSLY ACTIVATE THAT TALISMAN.
SOON WE'LL BE ABLE TO BRING OVER THE CULPRIT THAT KILLED YOUR SISTER...

Yoshi-no.
Though the conclusion is wrong, your way of thinking is correct!
The laws of this world are on my side!
I also felt it.
Samon is hiding some-thing!
It's like he said, Yoshino! Don't give up!
It was foolish of me to give up at the start!

Even if you can't solve it on your own,
With my knowledge of magic, we'll definitely find a way!
There is a way!
WE'VE YET TO DISCOVER HOW TO BRIDGE THE CHASM OF TIME!
BUT DON'T GIVE UP!
AH...
INDEED IT APPEARS THERE IS WAY, HUH...

OI!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
OUR VOICES ARE CROSSING THROUGH TIME.
WITH MAGIC, IT SEEMS THERE WOULD BE A WAY FOR PHYSICAL BODIES TO CROSS THROUGH TIME AS WELL, RIGHT?
I'LL KEEP MY PROMISE.
THIS IS A DIFFERENT MATTER!
ARE YOU GOING TO DISREGARD OUR AGREEMENT?!
AND EVEN IF THIS TALISMAN...
WERE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE MAGIC TO CROSS TIME, I WOULDN'T RECKLESSLY ACTIVATE IT.
HOWEVER..
IF THE ONE THAT KILLED AIKA IS BROUGHT HERE,
I'LL ABANDON HAKAZE AND YOSHINO WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

THERE-
FORE...
I FEEL LIKE GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO F.GURE OUT THE WAY TO CROSS TIME.

THAT "I TOTALLY MANAGED TO PULL A ONE-OVER ON HIM" FEELING I GET FROM YOU IS PISSING ME OFF.

YOU WANTED THINGS TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS ALL ALONG, DIDN'T YOU?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
YOSHINO.
TIME TO START WRACKING YOUR BRAIN.
It's hopeless for me to find a way on my own.
But with so little magical knowledge and so little time...
I've confirmed that time can indeed be crossed.

If Hakaze-san and Makiro act as well, it's definitely not impossible.

However ...

If it's not just me...

If it's the three of us, we'll definitely find a way.

AND EVEN PUT ME IN THIS KIND OF MOOD...
YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT YOU WEREN'T AIMING FOR THIS, RIGHT?
YOU PURPOSEFULLY RATTLED SAMON WITH THAT WILD SCENARIO,
TOOK THAT OPPORTUNITY TO RESTORE HAKAZE'S CONFIDENCE,
...
That...!
I was...

Did that boy see through me this entire time?

YOU'RE...
SURPRI-SINGLY NASTY, AREN'T YOU!

YOSHINO ...

BEFORE THE CULPRIT THAT KILLED AIKA-CHAN IS BROUGHT HERE.
WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO CROSS OVER TIME...

IF NOT, MAHIRO WILL TAKE SAMON'S SIDE.

IT'S TOO EARLY TO CELE-BRATE.

YUP.
RIGHT, MAHIRO ?
YOUR METHOD MAY BE DISADVANT AGEOUS TO MY POSITION ...
SO, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, I CAN'T TAKE HAKAZE'S SIDE.
HOW-EVER ..
UNTIL THE CULPRIT IS BROUGHT HERE,
I'LL GIVE YOU TIME TO THINK OF A WAY.

WE'LL BREAK IT, THEN.
THIS "CAGE OF TIME"!
THERE MUST BE A WAY!

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ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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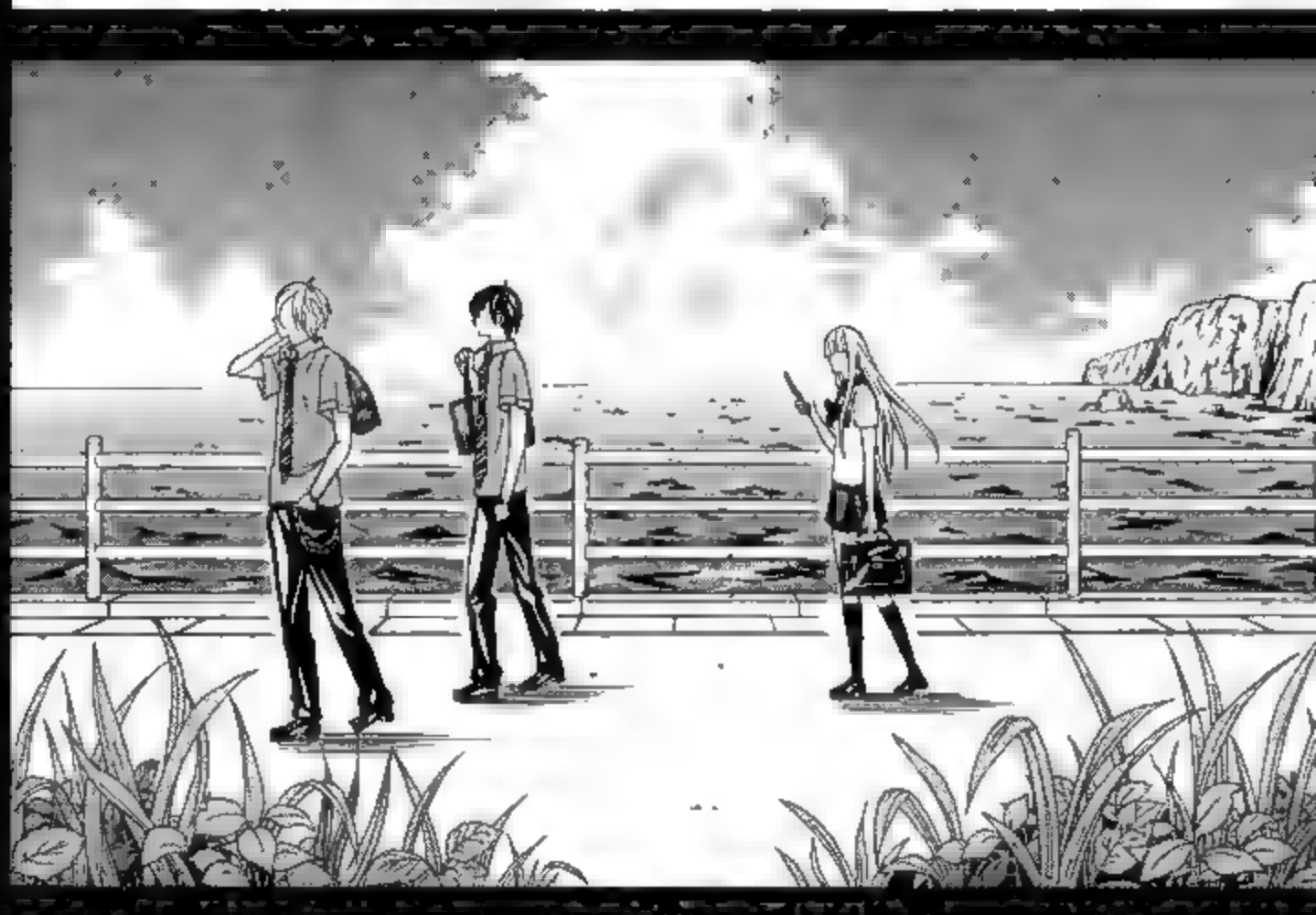
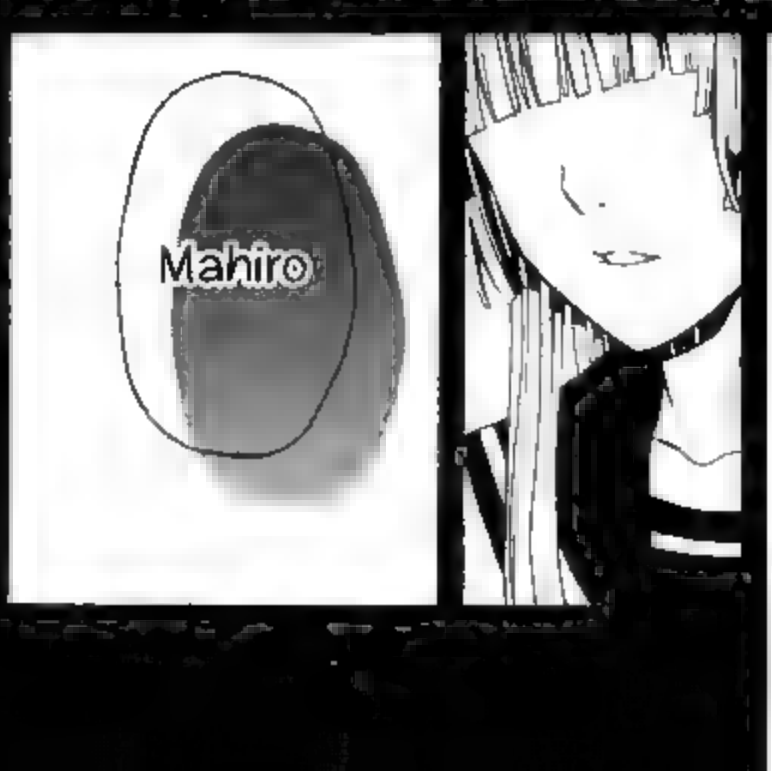
Chapter 13: "Daughter of Time"




Mahiro

ｶｼｬ
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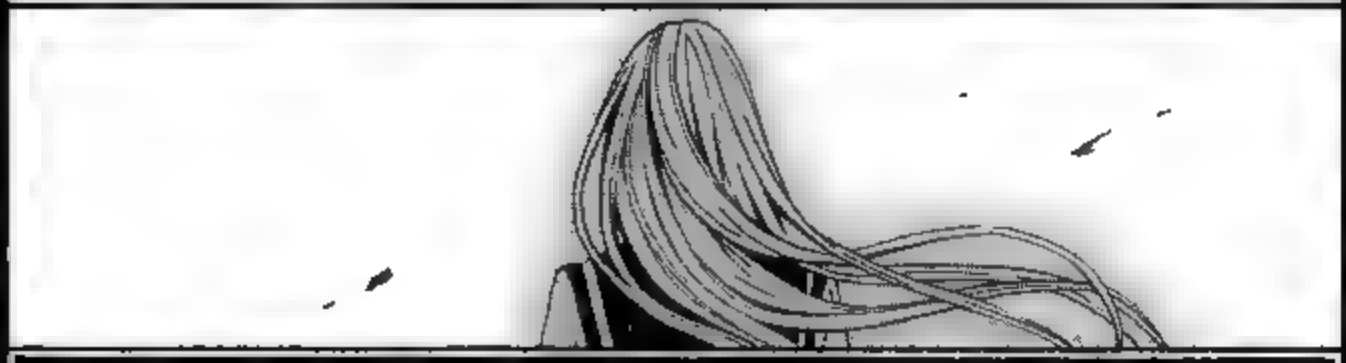
What does a kiss feel like?
Aika.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
NO-THING ...
AFTER ALL, FOR YOU, WHO'S DATED SO MANY OLDER WOMEN SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL...
YOU MUST HAVE HAD 10 OR 20 DIFFERENT KINDS OF KISSES...
BECAUSE I HAVEN'T DONE IT BEFORE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE TAKEN BY SUR-PR SE MY FIRST TIME.
WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SOME-THING LIKE THAT?
THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT.

I HAVEN'T DONE IT BEFORE EITHER...
So...
IT'S ONLY NATU-RAL...
FOR YOSHINO-SAN TO NOT HAVE DONE IT BEFORE.
WHAT'S IT LIKE?
GIVE ME SOME BROTHERLY ADVICE ONCE IN A WHILE, PLEASE.

...AS I EXPEC-TED...
WHAT A USELESS GUY.
IT'S 10 YEARS TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE ASKING ABOUT KISSING.
COME BACK ONCE YOU'VE BECOME A BIT MORE FEMININE.
IT'S NOT LIKE AS IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE RIGHT NOW ANYWAY, SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF ASKING?
NOBODY WOULD HAVE THAT KIND OF INTEREST IN AIKA, ANYWAY.
AND IF THERE WAS SOMEONE, I WOULDN'T ALLOW IT.
TRY TO BE MORE UNDER-STAND-ING.
NO WAY.
SHE'S MY SISTER, AFTER ALL.

フフ!
AND THAT'S A GOOD REASON?
OF COURSE IT IS.
Girlfriend
Next Time
Yoshino-san,
It'll be the first time
for both of us.
So let's try it next time.

Ah... why...



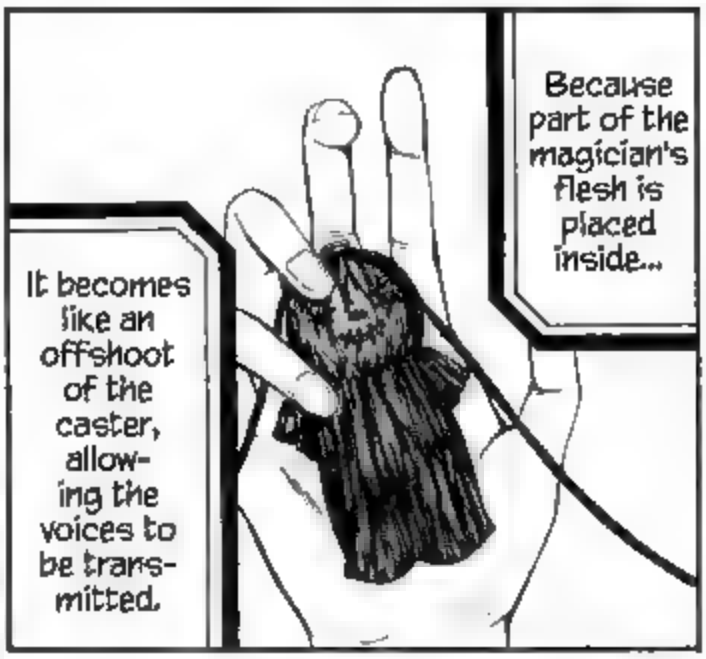
Why was "Girlfriend" killed?

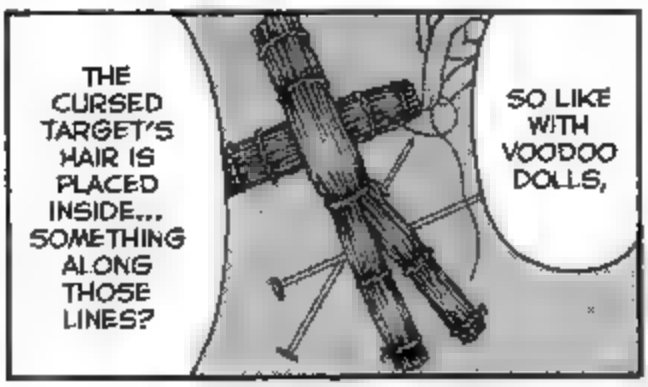
And Aika-chan's death won't end as a tragedy!
With this...
Hakaze's return is assured...
Even if the defensive field itself is not broken,
if you stand against him, you'll be thrown down over and over until you're exhausted.
Just as the sun always rises in the east... Just as the moon always waxes and wanes...
Will the princess, favored by the laws of this world, always be the victor in the end?

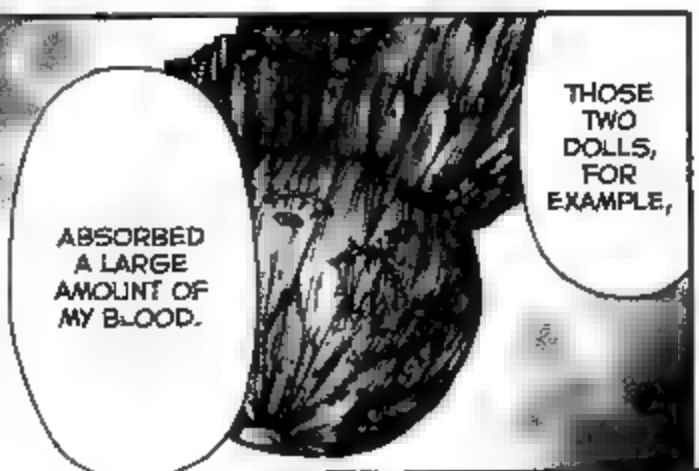
LET'S USE THE FACT THAT WE'RE USING MAGIC AS A START-ING POINT.
ASIDE FROM THAT, ARE THERE ANY OTHER NECESSARY CONDITIONS?
HAKAZE... IN ANY CASE,
WHAT ABOUT THE LOGIC BEHIND HOW WE'RE ABLE TO COM-MUNICATE THROUGH THAT DOLL?
BECAUSE OF THE "SIMILARITIES" BETWEEN THE "THINGS" THERE'S A RESONANCE THAT ALLOWS THEM TO CONNECT.
IT COULD JUST BE PIECES OF WOOD, OR DOLLS, LIKE I USED.
YEAH.
FIRST, THERE NEEDS TO BE A SET OF "THINGS" WITH A SIMILAR SIZE AND SHAPE.
IS THAT IT?
HOWEVER ..
THE MORE COMPLEX THE FORM, THE EASIER THE CON-NECTION.

THOSE *THINGS* MUST INCORPORATE A PORTION OF THE MAGICIAN'S BODY INSIDE.
No...

SO THAT'S IT...


Because part of the magician's flesh is placed inside...
It becomes like an offshoot of the caster, allowing the voices to be transmitted.


THE CURSED TARGET'S HAIR IS PLACED INSIDE... SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES?
SO LIKE WITH VOODOO DOLLS,


ABSORBED A LARGE AMOUNT OF MY BLOOD.
THOSE TWO DOLLS, FOR EXAMPLE,

THE MORE OF THE MAGICIAN INCORPORATED INSIDE, THE STRONGER THE CONNECTION.
THAT'S RIGHT.

...IF WE GO BY THAT REASONING...

SUPPOSE THAT ON THIS END AND ON THE ISLAND THERE ARE THINGS SUFFICIENTLY COMPLEX AND SIMILAR TO HAKAZE-SAN, AS WELL AS ENOUGH OF HAKAZE-SAN'S BODY...
WOULD THAT ALLOW YOUR PHYSICAL BODY TO CROSS OVER TIME?

DON'T PUT MY VOICE AND MY BODY ON THE SAME LEVEL.
A TELEPHONE AND A TELEPORTER ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, NO?
O
X

.....

THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING USABLE...
IF I WERE TO ASK THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" TOO...

WELL... BUT MAYBE IT'S POSSIBLE IN TERMS OF MAGICAL LOGIC?
HOLD ON... LET ME THINK ABOUT THE POSSIBLE TECHNIQUES.

Ha-kaze
IF IT IS INDEED POSSIBLE, ALL THE NECESSARY IMPLEMENTS TO CROSS OVER TIME ARE ALREADY GATHERED HERE.

WHAT?
SOME-THING EXACTLY THE SAME SIZE AND SHAPE AS YOU... AND A PORTION OF YOUR BODY...
IS ALREADY PRESENT ON BOTH SIDES.
AFTER ALL, YOUR SKELE-TON...
IS BOTH HERE AND THERE, IS IT NOT?

...That's right...
That skeleton is the key to breaking the cage of time!
AH...!
IT'S THE KEY...
TO THE PRINCESS' VICTORY...!
オオオ
オオオ...

WHY ARE YOU HERE...
チャキッ
JUNI-CHIROU-DONO?
MY CLASS GOT CANCELLED SO I WENT OUT FOR A WALK...
SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?
YOU MOVED SPLENDIDLY, ONEE-SAN.
...ARE YOU A MAGICIAN AS WELL?
LEAVE THE REST TO ME. PLEASE, HAVE A DRINK.

I'M QUITE GOOD AT DETAINING MAGICIANS.

I'M JUST A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO'S BEEN HELD BACK A COUPLE OF YEARS.
NO... UNFORTUNATELY I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF TALENT.

HOWEVER...

JUNICHIROU-DONO... DESPITE YOUR AVOWED NEUTRALITY...
DO YOU INTEND TO GET IN OUR WAY?

WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING AGAINST US?!

THE LONGER THAT ATTACK CONTINUES, THE GREATER THE RISK OF OUR WORLD BEING EXTINGUISHED!
THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE WORLD IS AT STAKE HERE!

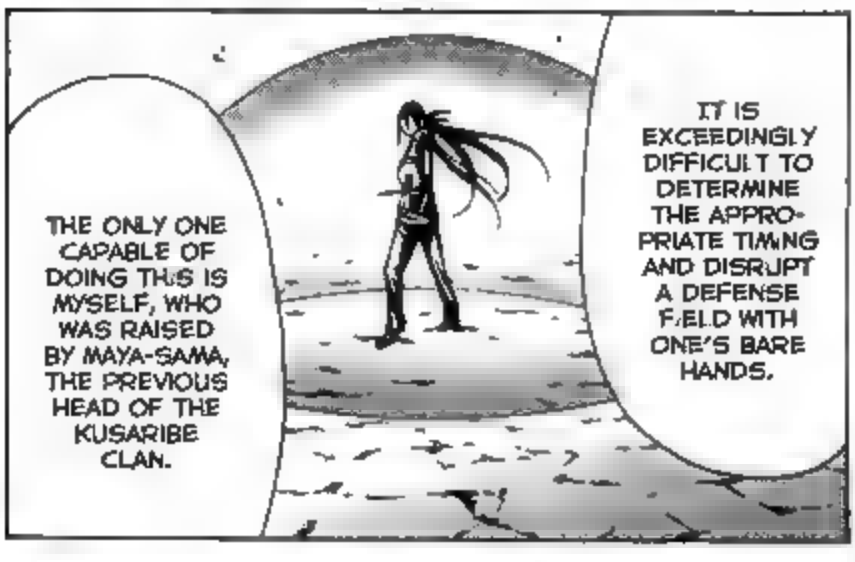
BOUNCING AROUND SO BEAUTI-FULLY!
BECAUSE THAT ONEE-SAN'S BREASTS WERE...
EH...
IT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?
?...
...YOU'RE WRONG.
AM I WRONG?!
YOU'RE NOT A MAN, TO RENDER SOMEONE LIKE THAT INCAPABLE OF MOVING
WELL, WHAT-EVER.
THE REASON DOESN'T MATTER.
.....
Is he going to be alright? ...Eh?

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT,
GO AHEAD AND TRY CHANGING THINGS BY FORCE.
WHAT...!

WHEN YOU'RE ON THE RECEIVING END OF A TECHNIQUE FROM A SKILLED PRACTITIONER OF JUDO OR AIKIDO...
YOU END UP SPRAWLED ON THE GROUND BEFORE KNOWING WHAT HIT YOU.
It's the same even with magicians.
DID YOU HEAR FROM SAMON-SAN?
ABOUT MY SKILL?

ALONG WITH THE FIELD, THE MAGICIAN INSIDE WILL BE TOPPLED OVER...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

ALTHOUGH A MAGICIAN'S DEFENSE FIELD CAN NEUTRALIZE OUTSIDE ATTACKS,
WHEN AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF FORCE IS APPLIED, WITH THE RIGHT TIMING,


IT IS EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE TIMING AND DISRUPT A DEFENSE FIELD WITH ONE'S BARE HANDS.
THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF DOING THIS IS MYSELF, WHO WAS RAISED BY MAYA-SAMA, THE PREVIOUS HEAD OF THE KUSARIBE CLAN.

EXACTLY.
HOWEVER...

IT WAS ONLY INTENDED FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO SLOW DOWN HAKAZE-CHAN MOMENTARILY, IF THERE WAS A NEED TO DO SO.
ORIGINALLY,

THIS TIME, I'M GOING TO USE IT ON YOU.

However, that is all Junichirou-dono can do.
He can only use his throwing technique.
Junichirou-dono is highly skilled.
According to Samon-dono..
If you stand against him, you'll be thrown down over and over until you're exhausted.
Even if the defensive field itself is not broken,
I can't fight with Junichirou-dono head on!
Therefore, there's only one effective countermeasure.
It's not a cowardly escape...
It's a tactical retreat!
Amongst the flying bullets and bombs, Junichirou-dono is powerless.
If I use magic to accelerate into the midst of the army, Junichirou-dono will be unable to follow.

Alright, I'll speed up and pull away...
I SAID I WOULDN'T LET YOU!

THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING NOW
YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO STAND UP.
KU...
IF YOU WERE GOING TO ESCAPE, YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE SO RIGHT AFTER I GREETED YOU,
NATSU-MURA-KUN.
ポン
ポン
...I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE WINDS ARE BLOWING IN MY FAVOR.
SO STAY DOWN!
ビュッ

IT'S MY OWN BODY.
THERE CAN BE NO STRONGER CATALYST FOR ESTABLISHING RESONANCE AND MAKING A CONNECTION.

I SEE!
BECAUSE TIME IS DISCONNECTED, MY SKELETON EXISTS SIMULTANEOUSLY INSIDE MY BODY HERE AND OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE!

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE TIME PARADOX?
BUT MAHIRO...

WILL THIS WORK?
CAN WE USE THIS?

wouldn't that mean that Hakaze-san will be reduced to bones on the island?
But if Hakaze-san crosses time to return here,
THESE ARE...
UNDOUB-TEDLY HAKAZE-SAN'S BONES.
BUT THE BONES ARE INDEED HERE.
THEN IF SAMON WASN'T ABLE TO RETRIEVE THE BONES, THE BONES WOULDN'T BE HERE.
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE CONTRA-DICTION?
SOME-THING THAT SHOULDN'T BE HERE IS HERE.
I?
THEN...
HOW ABOUT JUST LEAVING THE BONES BEHIND AND CROSSING TIME THAT WAY?

How about this idea?
Just leave your bones behind over there and move the rest of your physical body onto the skeleton over here.

Hakaze
YOUR BONES ARE HERE.

?

SAMON WOULD HAVE COLLECTED THOSE BONES AND HUNG THEM UP HERE.
IF ONLY THE FLESH CROSSES TIME, AND THE BONES ARE PROPERLY LEFT ON THE ISLAND,

Leave the bones behind...
And transfer the flesh over there...?!

..LET THE BONES RESONATE.

JUST HAVE THE FLESH CROSS OVER TIME AND RE-ESTABLISH ITSELF ON THE SKELETON OVER HERE!

The Present

The Past

ARE THERE ANY MORE CONTRADICTIONS THIS WAY?

Wall of Time

Prior to activating magic

Magic activated!

After magic is complete

IN THIS CASE THE PARADOX WILL NOT OCCUR.

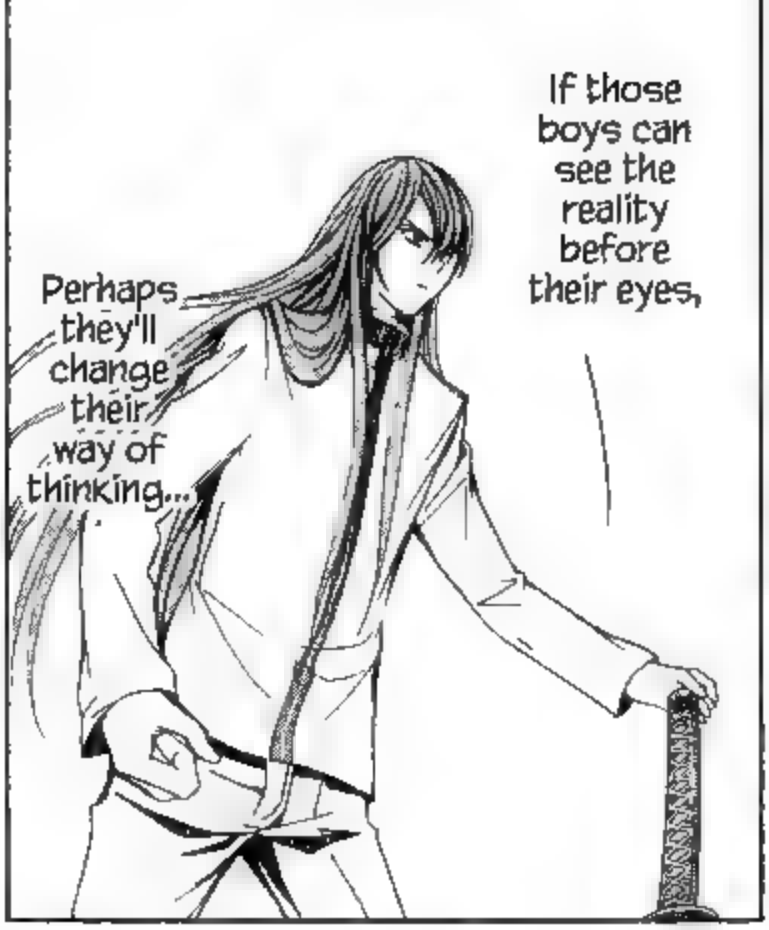
IF YOU SAY THAT THE BONES ARE COMMUNICATION DEVICES, WITH FLESH IN PLACE OF VOICES, LOGICALLY, IT'S LIKE HAVING A CONVERSATION!

There is a myriad of obstacles prior to reaching that conclusion, isn't there?

One can only conclude that the "Tree of Beginnings" has manipulated things to guide them to the correct solution!

HOWEVER, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THEY REALIZED THAT MUCH TOO QUICKLY!

...THAT'S RIGHT.


If those boys can see the reality before their eyes,
Perhaps they'll change their way of thinking...

THE EXACT METHOD OR TECHNIQUE ISN'T CLEAR AT THE MOMENT, BUT IT CAN PROBABLY WORK!
IT CAN WORK!

IF THERE ISN'T ONE, I CAN'T USE THE MAGIC... WHAT WILL HAPPEN THEN?!
THERE'S NO OFFERING LIKE THAT TO BE FOUND ON THIS ISLAND!

HOWEVER, FOR A MAGIC CAPABLE OF CROSSING OVER TIME,
A "PRODUCT OF CIVILIZATION" OF A SUFFICIENT LEVEL TO SERVE AS AN "OFFERING" IS NEEDED.

IN THAT CASE...
An offering, huh...

YOUNG MEN.
WOULD YOU ALLOW ME TO...
SAY A FEW WORDS?

FOR-
WARD!
KEEP IT
UP!
THE
BARRIER
IS REACH-
ING ITS
LIMITS!

THERE'S NO WAY IT WON'T BREAK!
THE WALL WILL BREAK!
JUST ONE MORE PUSH!
RETURN!
RETURN!
RETURN!

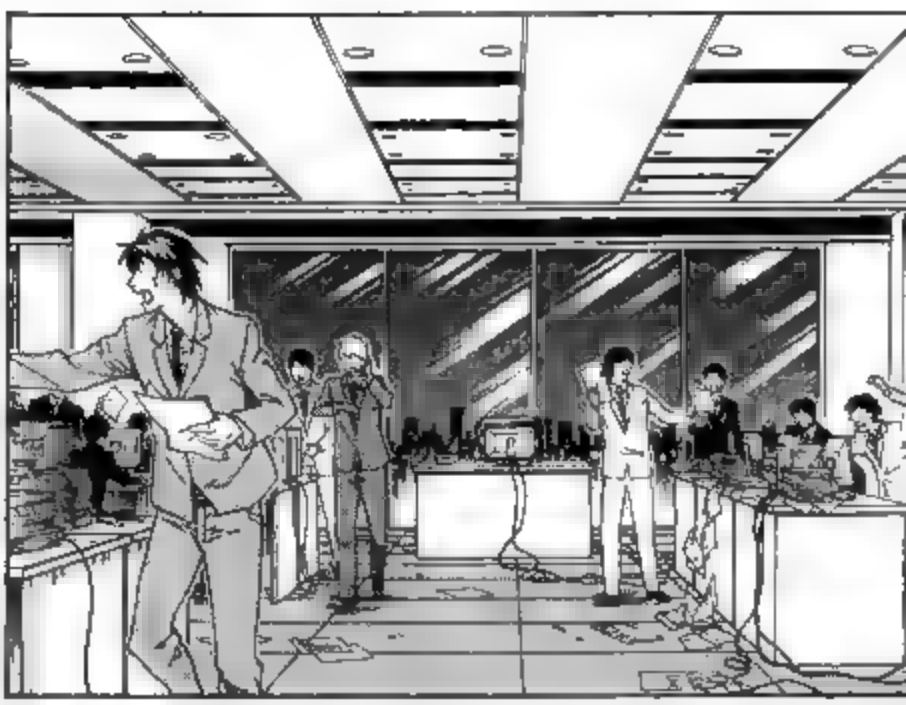
OUR AIM RIGHT NOW...
...IS FOR JUST ONE OF THE "FRUITS OF ZETSUEN" TO FLY OVER HERE!

THE SECOND LAYER IS STARTING TO FLUCTUATE!
THE FIRST LAYER OF THE BARRIER IS GIVING WAY!

REINFORCE THE RESURRECTION CEREMONY!
IGNORE IT FOR NOW!

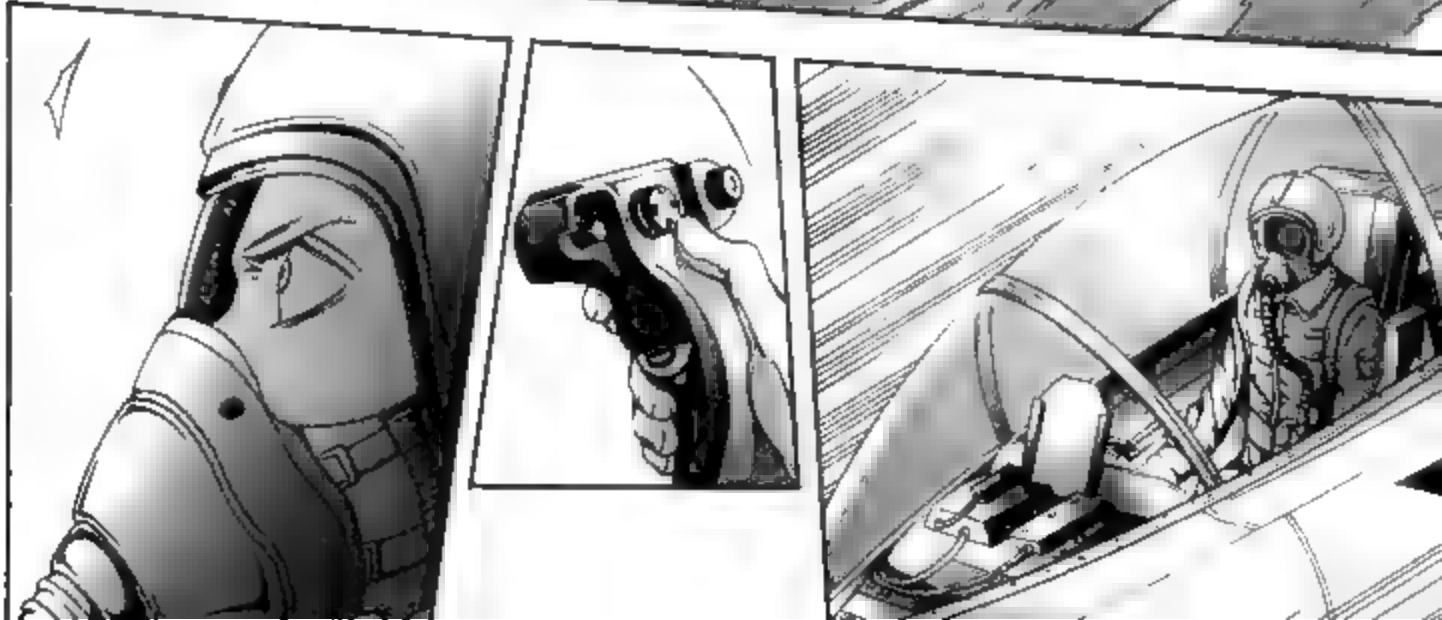
Just a little bit more...!
Even if the situation changes, we can maintain the barrier!

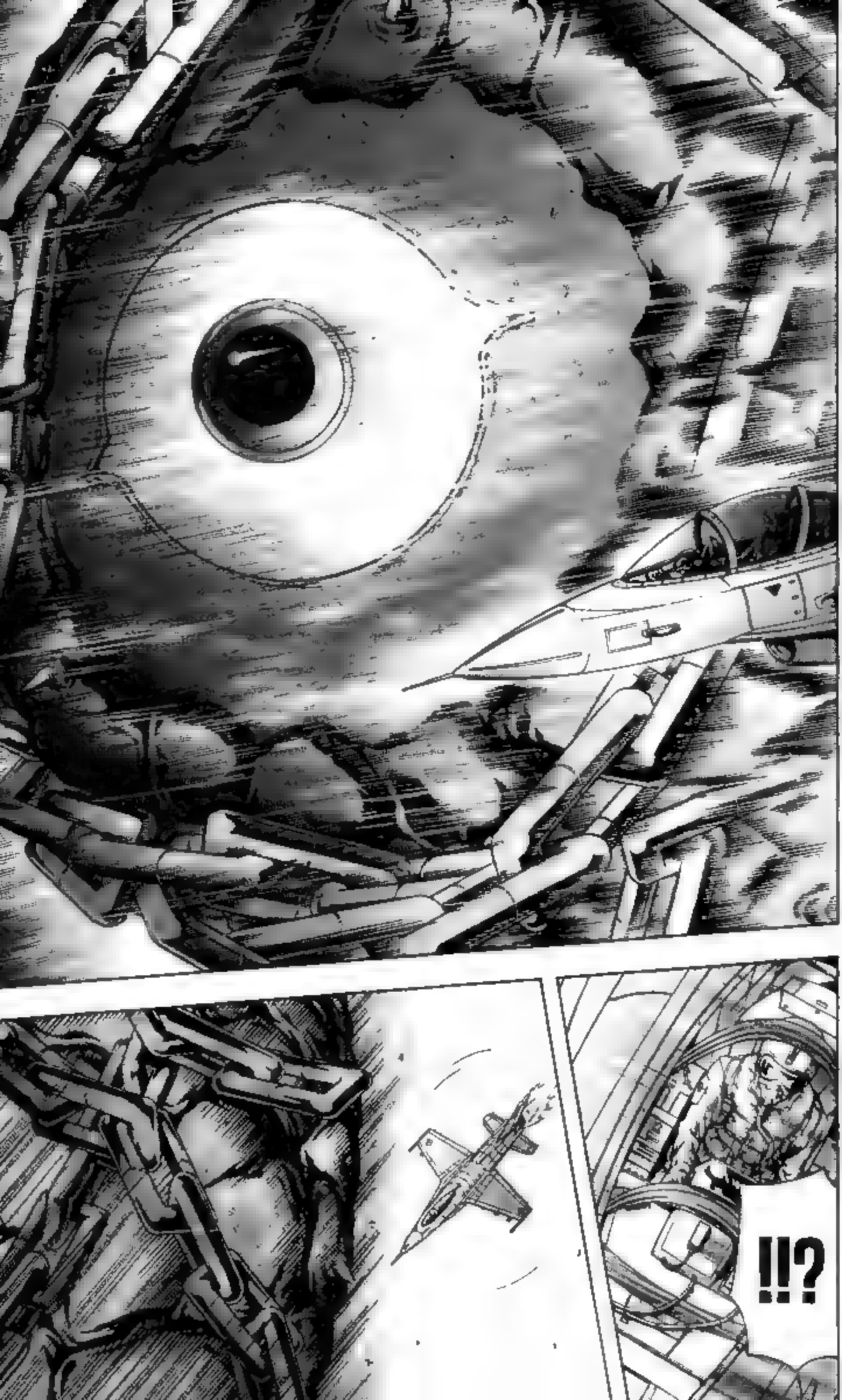
...UNUSUAL PROLIFERATIONS OF BUTTERFLIES HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED IN 5 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS...?!
ARE THEY COMING HERE?!

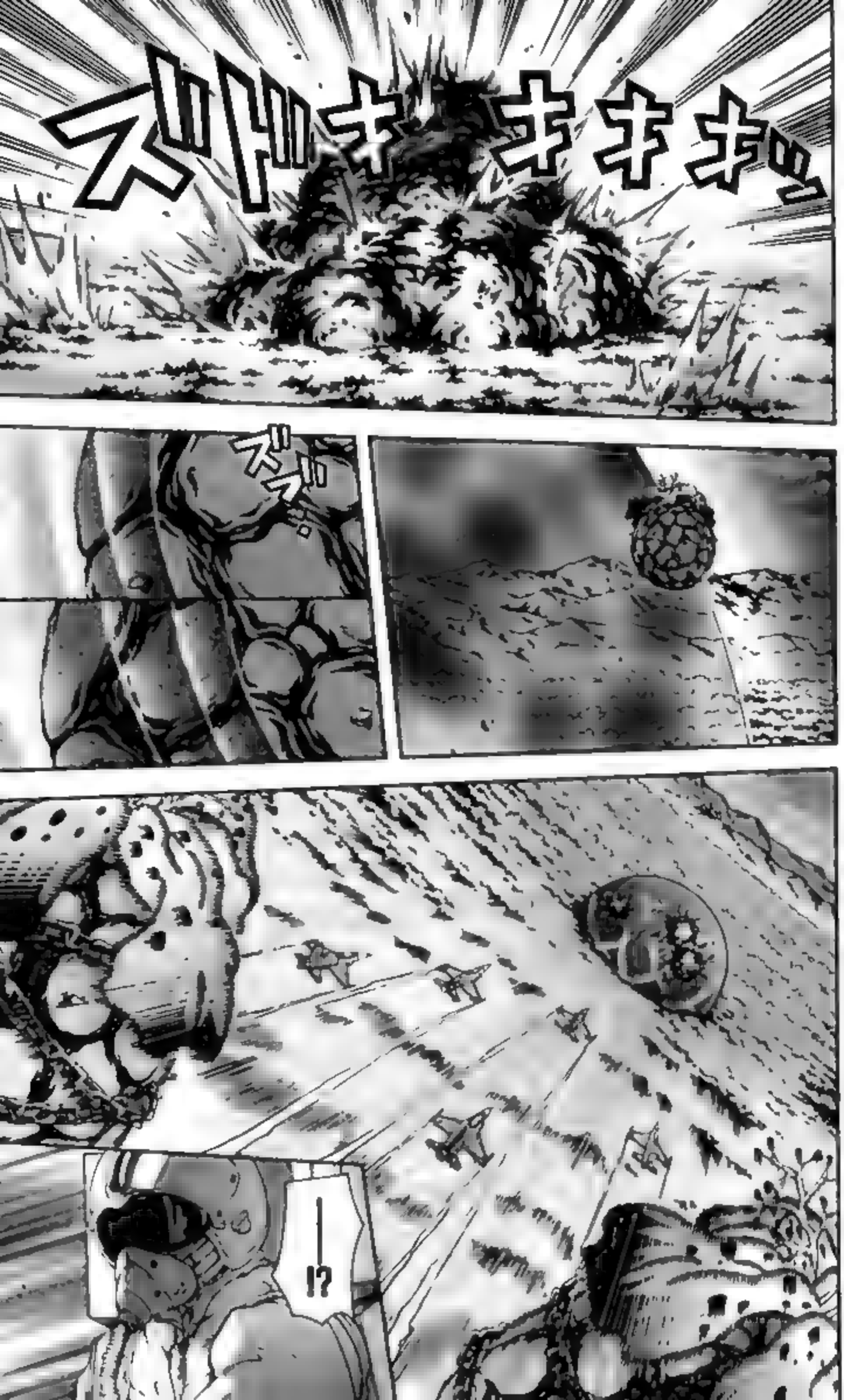


CONFIRM BY SATEL-LITE!
IT'S APPROA-CHING THE BASE OF MT. FUJI AT HIGH SPEED!
THE "FRUIT" HAS ALREADY BEEN FLYING HERE!
THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS AND CASUAL-TIES IS ALREADY OFF THE CHARTS!
DO THEY WANT TO CAUSE EVEN MORE DES-TRUCTION?
DAMN IT...

HOW MANY MORE FRUITS ARE THERE?
WILL THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MAGICIANS MAKE IT IN TIME...?



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...!!
WAH!!!
THE... THE AERIAL DIVISION...
IS GETTING PICKED OFF ONE BY ONE...
CO... COWARDS... THIS IS TOO COWARDLY...!

HOW-
EVER...
WE HAVE ONE MORE ATTACK TO LOOK FORWARD TO!
AL-
RIGHT!
IT'S JUST AS WE HAD HOPED!
WHAT...?!

BUT...
THAT...?!

WE WOULD HAVE CONTACTED THE PRINCESS IMMEDIATELY
IN TRUTH, IF OUR RESURRECTION CEREMONY HAD FAILED,

PART OF THAT BARREL HAS ABSORBED MY BLOOD AND CAN SERVE AS A COMMUNICATION DEVICE.

THE METHOD YOU CAME UP WITH TO CROSS OVER TIME
IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT.

Was hidden on that island long ago, as well.
The offering necessary for the magic to cross over time,

THE "OFFERING" FOR THE PRINCESS TO RETURN HERE...
Therefore,

Someone this methodical certainly would have done that!
Just as I thought!
THE SEA SUDDENLY WENT WILD AND THERE WASN'T TIME.
I WASN'T ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT WHEN I RETRIEVED THE BONES AND THE BARREL.
AS FOR WHETHER OR NOT THAT OFFERING HAD ALREADY BEEN USED...
Young man...

DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" IS MANIPULATING FATE TO ENSURE THE PRINCESS' VICTORY?
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES?
DON'T YOU THINK ALL OF THIS IS TOO PERFECT?

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, YOU'RE JUST BEING A SORE LOSER, AREN'T YOU?
GIVE IT A REST.

AREN'T YOU ALSO ONE WHOSE FATE HAS BEEN TWISTED AROUND?
BUT YOUNG MAN...

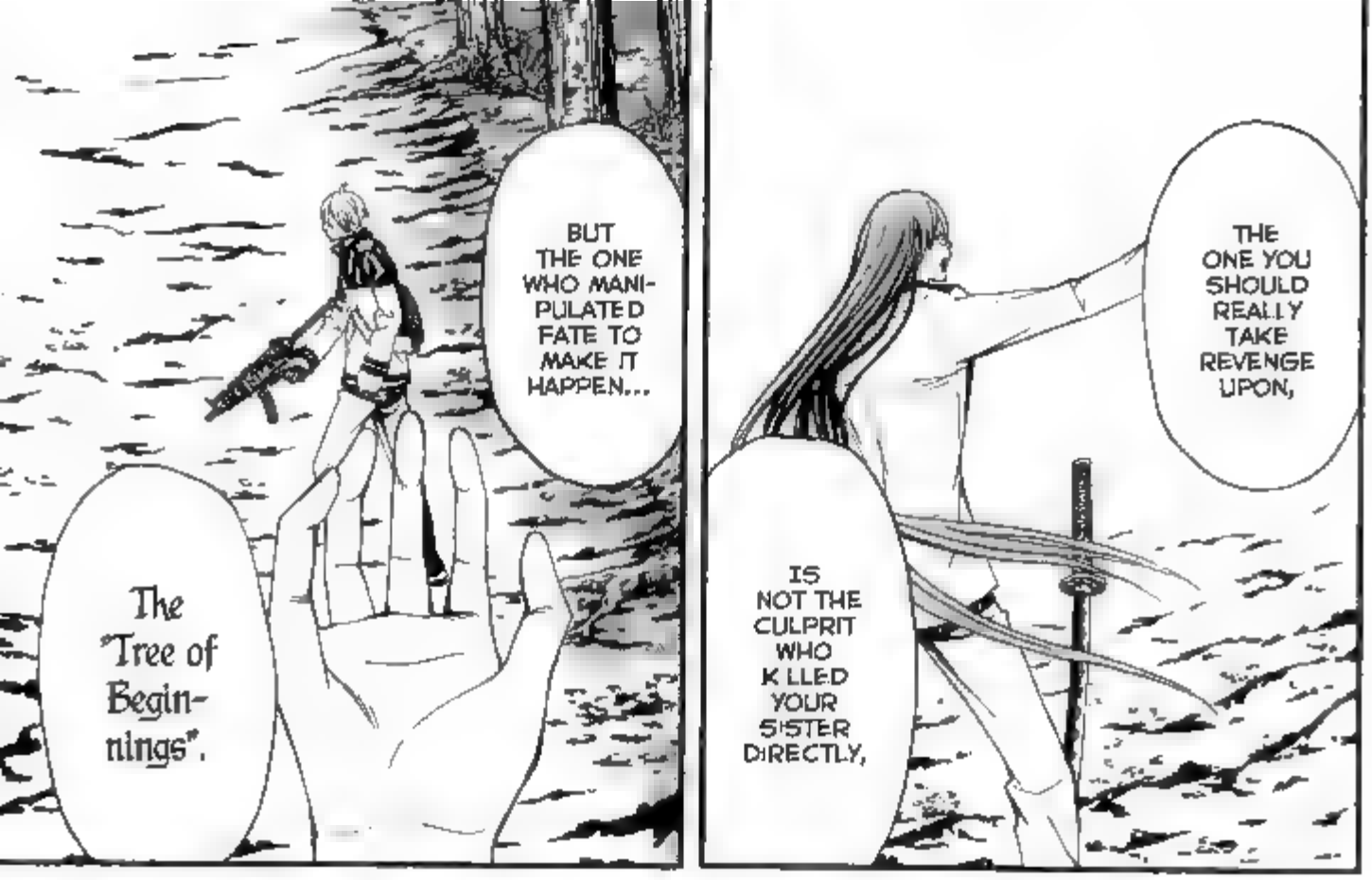
YOU CAME HERE
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SISTER'S REVENGE, RIGHT?
BUT CONVE-NIENTLY,
YOU AND THAT UNUSUAL FRIEND OF YOURS HAVE SOMEHOW ENDED UP LENDING THE PRINCESS A HAND...
CAN ALL THAT BE CALLED A COINCI-DENCE?
IT IS NOT A COINCI-DENCE.

IT WAS THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" PLAN ALL ALONG!
JUST AS YOU'VE ENDED UP HELPING THE PRINCESS, THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" MANIPULATED THE LAWS OF THIS WORLD TO HAVE YOUR SISTER KILLED!

YOUR SISTER'S DEATH...

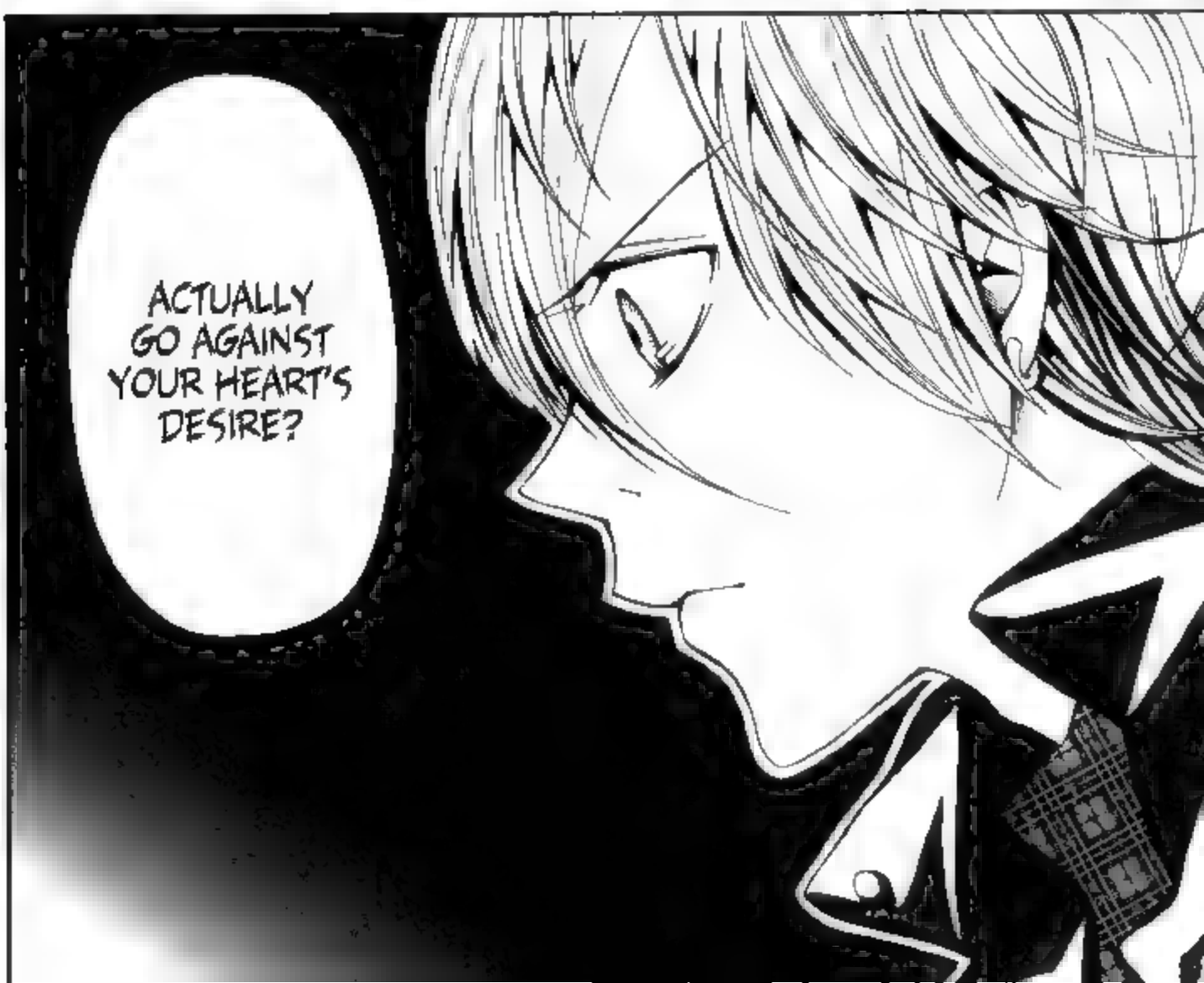
TOOK PLACE AFTER THE PRINCESS WAS LEFT ON THAT ISLAND.

Ah...!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOUNG MAN...


The "Tree of Beginnings".
BUT THE ONE WHO MANIPULATED FATE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN...
IS NOT THE CULPRIT WHO KILLED YOUR SISTER DIRECTLY,
THE ONE YOU SHOULD REALLY TAKE REVENGE UPON,

killed Mahiro's sister for my sake, then...
If the "Tree of Beginnings"..

DOESN'T TAKING THE PRINCESS' SIDE...


ACTUALLY GO AGAINST YOUR HEART'S DESIRE?

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ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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Chapter 14: "Swallowed by a Maelstrom"

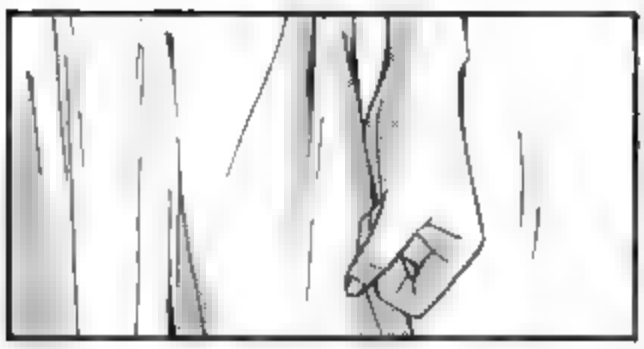
Pacific Rim, Japanese coastal waters
WHAT EXACTLY..
IS HAPPENING TO THIS WORLD...?!
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THAT BEFORE?
...A WHIRLPOOL THAT BIG...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE... SOME SORT OF MONSTER'S GOING TO COME OUT OF THERE...

IF THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" KILLED YOUR SISTER FOR THE PRINCESS' SAKE...
YOUNG MAN.

FOR YOU TO KEEP SIDING WITH THE PRINCESS?
ISN'T IT ILLOGICAL...

I felt it before too.

Aika-chan's death,
Was simply too convenient for Hakaze.



How-
ever...

I felt it as well.
As though Makiro's sister was killed for my sake.

But time has been split for over 2 years!

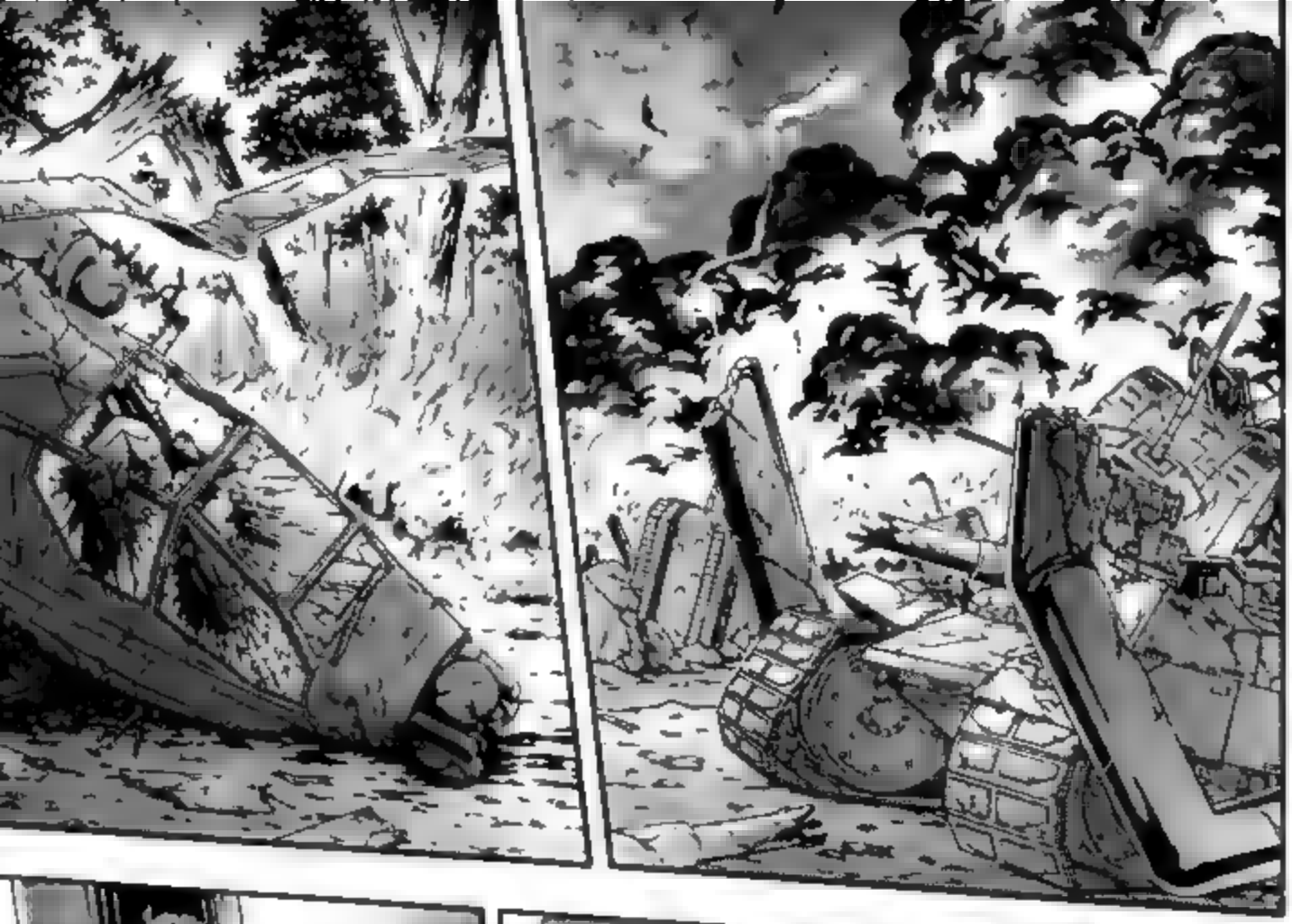
So in reality...

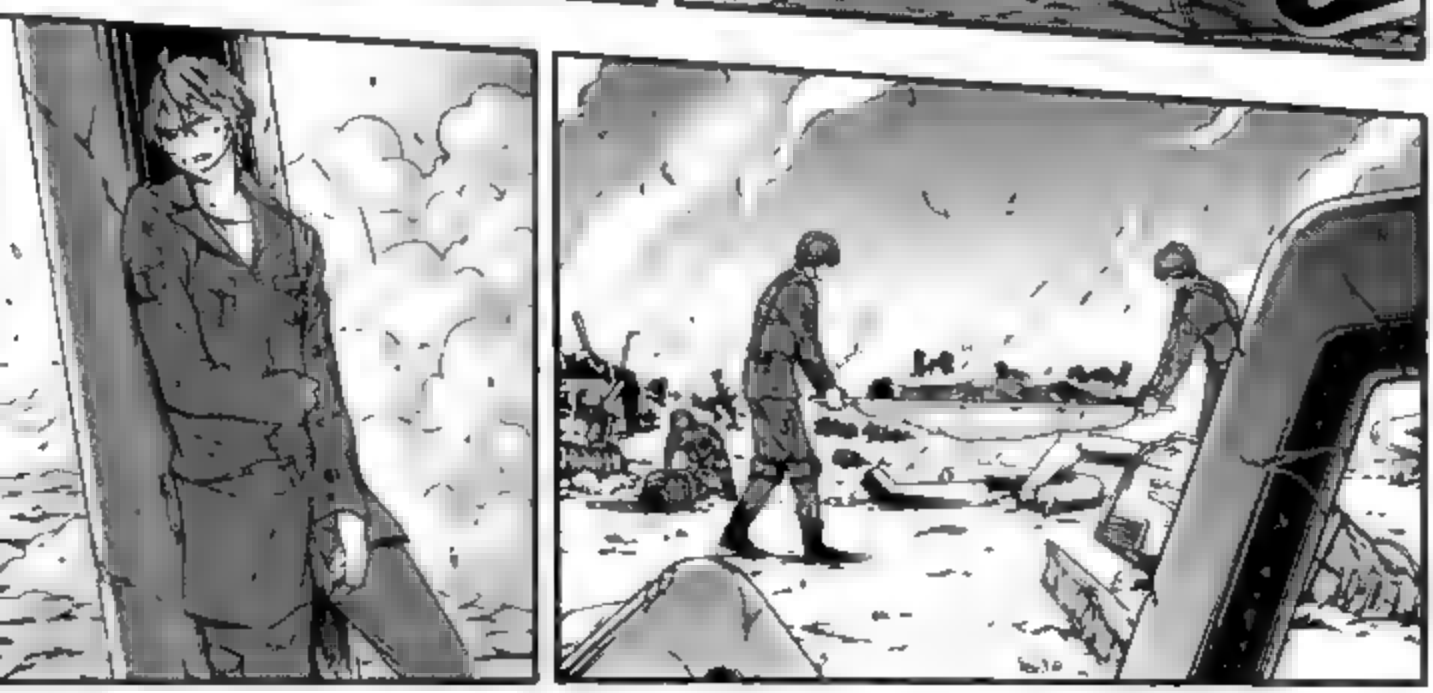
Since Aika-chan was supposedly killed before Hakaze-san was aban-doned on the island,
I thought they weren't related at the time.

Makiro's sister was killed after I had been left on the island!
In reality...

I'm the reason for the death of Makiro's sister...!
If you say that the "Tree of Beginnings" had set things up like this for my sake, I can't deny it!
TSK...
YOUNG MAN.
THE ONE YOU SHOULD TRULY DEFEAT IS THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS".
UNTIL THAT UNREASONABLE CONSCIOUSNESS HAS BEEN DESTROYED, YOUR REVENGE WILL NOT BE COMPLETED.

AS LONG AS THAT CONTROL EXISTS
WE ARE NOTHING MORE THAN THE TREE'S SLAVES!
WE WILL TAKE BACK OUR OWN DESTINY,
AND TRULY SAVE THE WORLD!
YOUNG MAN.
JOIN US!





THE RESULTS ARE EVEN BETTER THAN I EXPECTED...!
IT TOTALLY WIPED OUT THE ARMY FOR US, HUH?!

KH...

Even though we're not opposed to the results brought about by the "Tree",
This isn't something to celebrate either.

Despite that...
Did too many people die?

THE TROOPS...
FOR THIS MANY SOLDERS TO BE...

IT'S UNSPEAKABLE...

IT APPEARS THAT THE ARMY HAS BEEN DESTROYED.
THE ATTACK HAS BEEN HALTED.

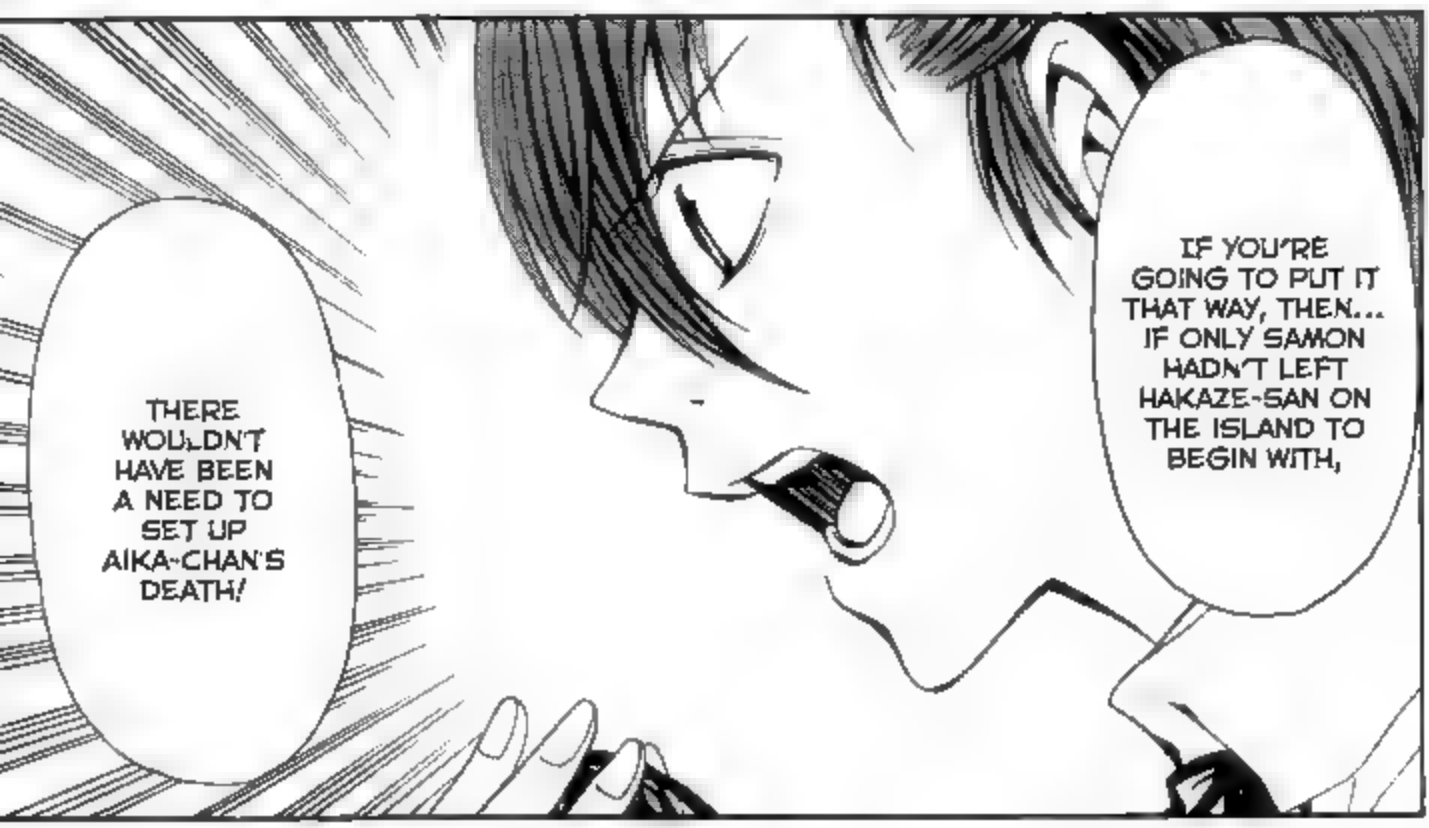
WITH THIS,
THERE'S NO LONGER ANY MEANING TO MY DELAYING TACTICS.
NO WAY.
HOW DIFFICULT DO YOU THINK IT WAS JUST TO MOBILIZE ALL THOSE TROOPS?
Onee-san
DOES THE ARMY HAVE A PLAN TO MOUNT AN ATTACK OF SIMILAR SCALE ON SHORT NOTICE?
WELL THEN...
NATSU-MURA-KUN.

WE CAN BOTH STOP THIS MEANINGLESS FIGHT.
AND FOR YOU, WHOSE MISSION WAS TO DISRUPT THE TROOPS... THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR YOU TO DO EITHER.

IT WASN'T A MEANINGLESS FIGHT TO BEGIN WITH.

DOES THE FATE OF THE WORLD...
REST ON THOSE TWO YOUNG MEN'S SHOULDERS?

MAHIRO
THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY!


IF YOU'RE GOING TO PUT IT THAT WAY, THEN... IF ONLY SAMON HADN'T LEFT HAKAZE-SAN ON THE ISLAND TO BEGIN WITH,
THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A NEED TO SET UP AIKA-CHAN'S DEATH!

IN THAT CASE
ZOO
THE ONES RESPON-SIBLE FOR AIKA-CHAN'S DEATH...
ARE SAMON AND HIS MEN, RIGHT?!

UGH
...

WASN'T IT JUST LETTING AIKA-CHAN BECOME A SACRIFICE
FOR THE SAKE OF RESUR-RECTING THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN"?!

THE CULPRIT THAT KILLED AIKA-CHAN
IS SOMEONE WITHIN THE KUSARIBE CLAN!

THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN" ACTED FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD.
MOREOVER!

IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS,
THAT SAMON'S SIDE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THE RIGHT ONE!

...No.
Why is Yoshino putting on this meaningless, loathsome snow?
Although you might be correct there...
This doesn't mean my responsibility disappears, right?
Yoshino ...
I see!
He's buying time!
Then, this rebuttal...
I can buy time for Hakaze-san to find the "offering"!
But if I can make him doubt for even a little bit...
I don't know if my words will give Mahiro pause...

If so, the offering should not be hidden somewhere that would be difficult to find.
If it took great pains to find, I probably wouldn't make it back in time if there was an emergency!
Samon said that the "offering" necessary to cross over time was on this island...
So that I could be called back in case of an emergency.
Moreover, it should be somewhere where it wouldn't be vulnerable to damage or degradation by the weather or natural phenomena!
If you think of it that way, the possible hiding places are limited.
YOSHINO ...
It's not a very big island... it shouldn't be impossible for me to find it on my own!

I give you my gratitude.
I'll thank you with the rest of my life!

I don't want that to happen for Aika-chan's sake!

But just because of that...
It would still be wrong to just abandon her.

...Aika-chan's death might be Hakaze-san's fault.

THESE WORRIES ARE FOR LATER.

I'LL ATONE FOR IT AS WELL.
MAHIRO..
I WILL APOLOGIZE AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE.
HOWEVER..
I CAN'T MAKE ANY SORT OF ATONEMENT HERE IN THE PAST!
SO I'LL RETURN THERE!
NO MATTER WHAT!

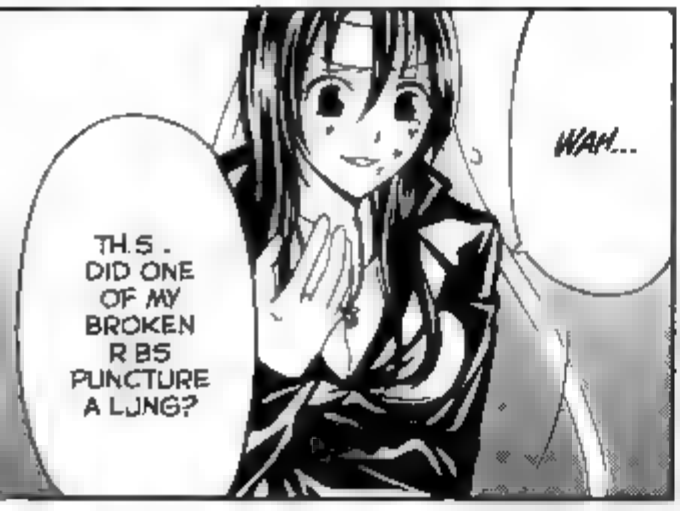
I'LL DEFINITELY FIND THE "OFFERING"!
THE LAWS OF THIS WORLD WILL ENSURE IT!

That young man...
He can't be under-estimated...
To what extent does he grasp the situation?

.....

IF THAT'S SO...!

THE "TREE OF BEG NNINGS" MIGHT EVEN HAVE ROBBED THE CULPRIT OF H.S WIL.
AND MANI-PULATED HIM LIKE A PUPPET/
ISN'T IT TOO COINC DEN-TAL FOR THE CULPRIT TO BE AMONGST THE KUSARIBE?
WASN'T IT JUST FOR THE SAKE OF MAKING US ENEMIES?
FOR A MEMBER OF THE KUSAR BE CLAN TO COMMIT MURDER IN THE FIRST PLACE...
THAT ITSELF IS ALMOST UNTHINK-ABLE!
THE RISK IS TOO GREAT FOR ONE OF US TO COMMIT MURDER.
EVERY MEMBER OF THE CLAN UNDER-STANDS.


WAH...
TH.S . DID ONE OF MY BROKEN R BS PUNCTURE A LUNG?

ゴホ"

YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE TOO IF SHE DIES BECAUSE OF THOSE WOUNDS, RIGHT?
.. NATSU-MURA-KUN, GO AHEAD AND HEAL HER.

BROKEN BONES AND SUCH CAN BE TAKEN CARE OF IN AN INSTANT.
FATAL INJUR ES AND MEDICAL IL.NESSES ARE A DIFFERENT MATTER, BUT...

CAN BE HEALED BY MAGIC?
INJU-RIES...

MY APOLO-
GIES.

Tree within the tree...
Great oak within the oak...

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT

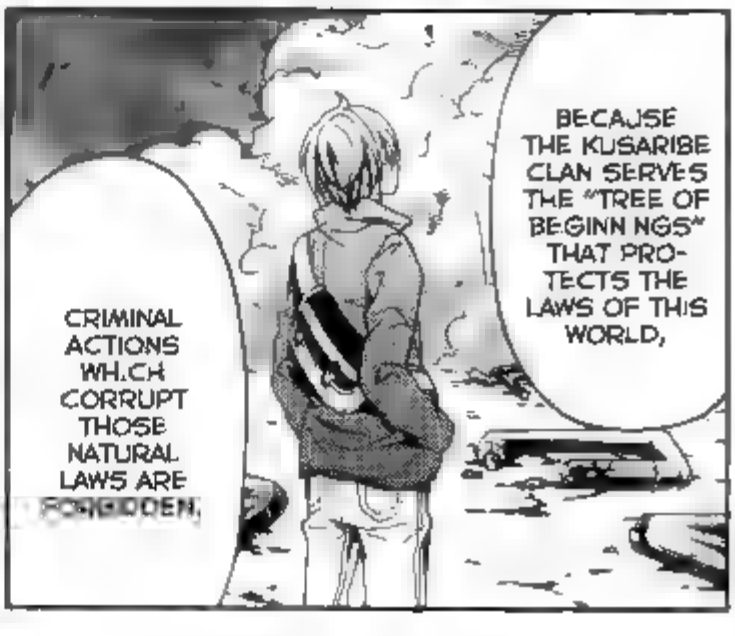
SHOULD I THANK H.M?

THE PAIN IS. .

JUN-ICHIROU-DONO!

NATSUMURA-KUN IS THE ONE THAT WOULD BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU DIED FROM THOSE WOUNDS.
HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO USE MAGIC FOR ABOUT A MONTH, AFTER ALL.

AMONG THEM, "MURDER" IS THE GREATEST TABOO.
EVEN THOUGH THE KUSARIBE'S MAGIC CAN REPAIR DAMAGE AND INJURIES, IT CANNOT BRING BACK THE

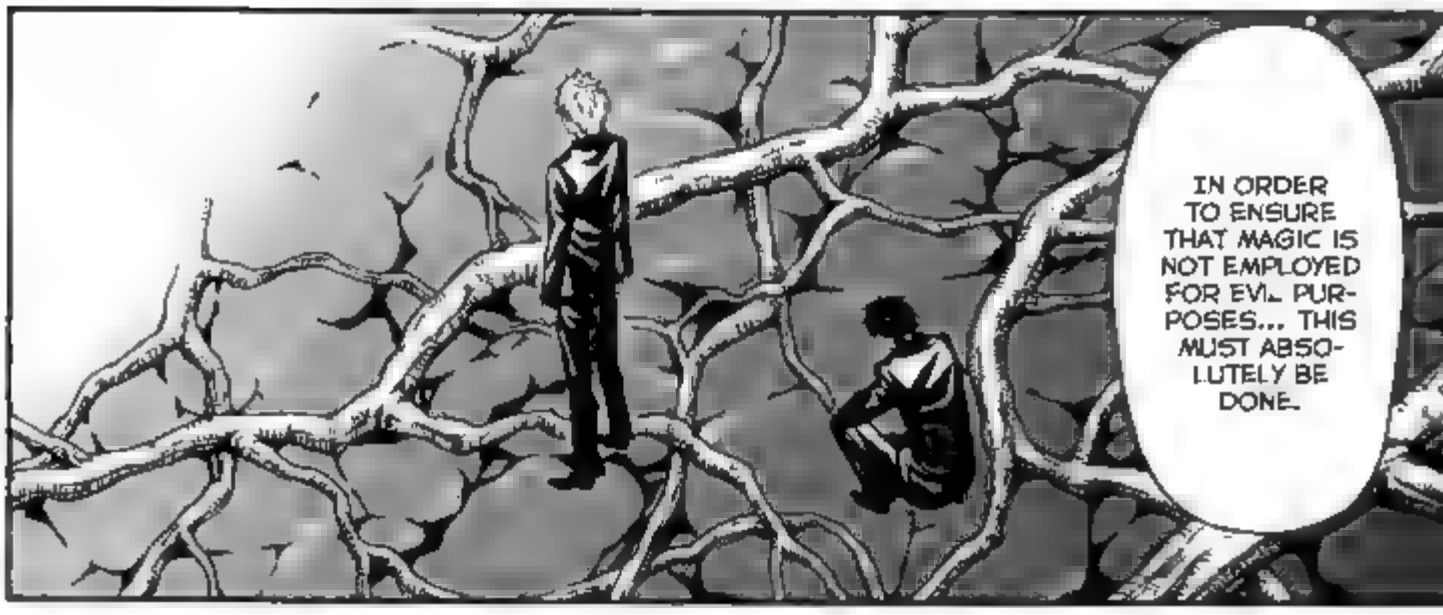

BECAUSE THE KUSARIBE CLAN SERVES THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" THAT PROTECTS THE LAWS OF THIS WORLD,
CRIMINAL ACTIONS WHICH CORRUPT THOSE NATURAL LAWS ARE FORBIDDEN.

FURTHER MORE...

IN ORDER TO USE MAGIC AGAIN, A CEREMONY BEGGING FOR FORGIVENESS FROM THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" IS NECESSARY.
THAT TAKES A MONTH'S TIME.

IF ONE WERE TO KILL SOMEONE DIRECTLY,
AS A BACKLASH, THAT PERSON WOULD BECOME UNABLE TO USE MAGIC.

EVEN IF ONE WAS TO BE FORGIVEN BY THE "TREE OF BEGIN-NINGS",
BARR'NG SOME EXTRA-ORDINARY CIR-CUMSTANCES... ONE WOULD RECEIVE HARSH PUNISHMENT WITHIN THE CLAN.
THE HIGHER-UPS IN THE CLAN...
CAN QUICKLY DISCOVER WHETHER SUCH A CEREMONY HAS BEEN PERFORMED.


IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT MAGIC IS NOT EMPLOYED FOR EVIL PUR-POSES... THIS MUST ABSO-LUTELY BE DONE.

YES..
IS IT COMPLETE?

REGARDING THE NVESTI-GATION OF CLAN MEMBERS WHO COMMITTED MURDER A YEAR AGO...

TETSUMA-DONO.

WELL THEN...
WHO IS THE CULPRIT?

THEREFORE..
EVEN IF YOU TRY TO HIDE IT, IT WOULD BE FOUND BY PERIODIC INVESTIGATIONS, AND YOU WOULD RECEIVE PUNISHMENT.
DIRECTLY KILLING SOMEONE IS THE ONLY THING THEY WOULD NOT DO.
EVEN IF A MEMBER OF THE KUSARIBE WAS TO COMMIT ALL SORTS OF CRIMES USING MAGIC,

THEY ARE STRONGLY BOUND BY THE POWER OF THE TREE, AS WELL AS BY THE LAWS OF THE CLAN.
SO THAT THE KUSARIBE MEMBERS DO NOT USE THE POWER OF MAGIC FOR CORRUPT PURPOSES...

FOR A MEMBER OF THE KUSARIBE TO HAVE KILLED SOMEONE AND HIDDEN IT. .
IS NORMALLY QUITE IMPOSSIBLE.
.. THERE-FORE

Hakaze-san?
IS THAT RIGHT?

Yeah...

.....

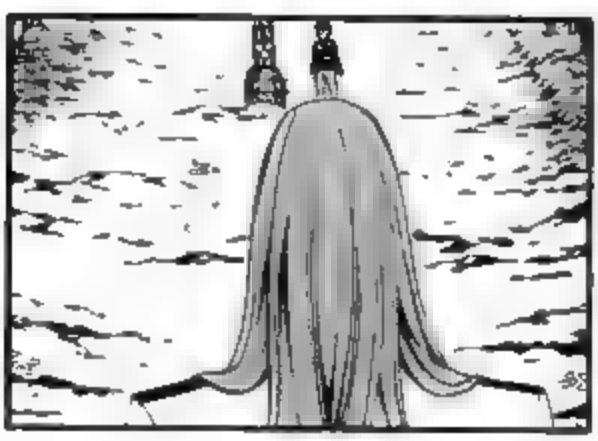
I KEPT DOUBTING IT AS WEL....

DESPITE THAT...
THERE'S NO MISTAKE THAT SOME-ONE IN THE KUSARIBE IS THE CULPRIT!

NOBODY CAUGHT?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THERE WAS "NOBODY CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF MAGIC".
BUT WHEN I WAS LOOKING INTO IT...
ONE WHOSE CRIME HAS ALREADY BEEN FORGIVEN BY THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS."
ONLY SUCH A PERSON COULD ESCAPE THE WEB DESPITE KILLING SOMEONE.
WHEN ONE COMMITS MURDER AND DISRUPTS THE NATURAL LAWS IN SUCH A WAY, NORMALLY THERE'S NO ESCAPING THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS"' WEB OF MAGIC.
THERE IS ONLY ONE EXCEPTION.
...IN OTHER WORDS...
IT'S A MEMBER OF THE KUSARIBE CLAN WHO PERFORMED THE "CEREMONY" AND WAS FORGIVEN?

AND THE ONLY ONES WITH THIS PRIVILEGE ARE THOSE OF THE KUSARIBE.
BEING FORGIVEN MEANS THAT NATURAL LAW HAS MENDED, SO ONE S NO LONGER ENTANGLED IN THE WEB.
CORRECT.

IF NOBODY WAS CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF MAGIC, THEN ONE MUST BELIEVE THAT THE CULPRIT IS AMONGST THE KUSARIBE.



EVEN WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF MAGIC, IN REALITY, THOSE OF THE KUSARIBE ARE UNABLE TO ESCAPE.

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYONE IN THE CLAN STUPID ENOUGH TO DO SUCH A THING DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME.
IT'S ONLY THIS YEAR, THAT BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN SO EN- GROSSED IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN", THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN INVESTI- GAT NG ANY VIOLATORS OF THE NATURAL LAW.

I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS A MISTAKE IN THE PRINCESS' MAGIC.

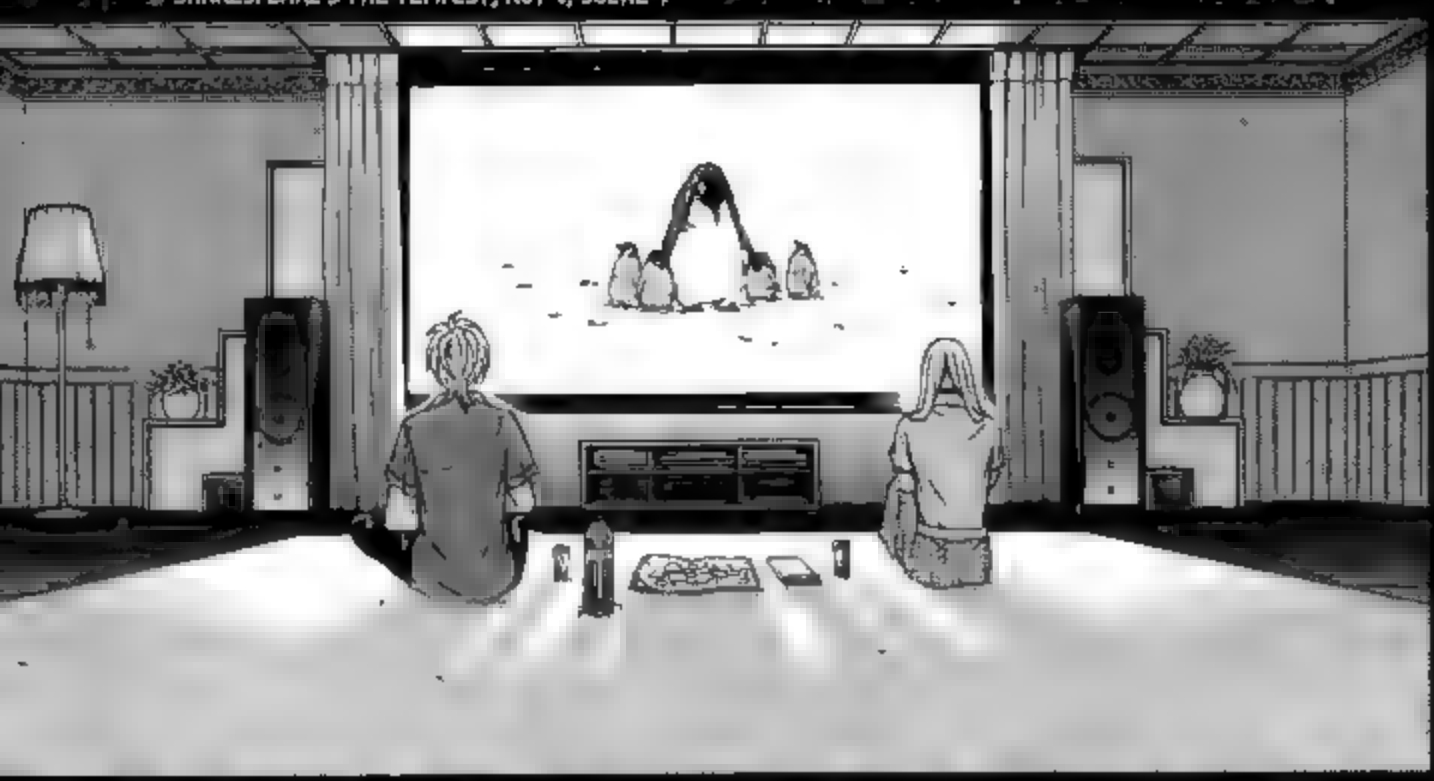
LIFE, DEATH, EVERY-THING...
JUST LOOK.
EVERY-THING IS AS THE "TREE OF BEGINNING" WILLS!
NO MATTER HOW YOU SEE IT, IT'S JUST TOO COINCI-DENTAL! IT'S TOO ADVANTA-GEOUS FOR THE PRINCESS!

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE FREE FROM THAT?!

Where did Samon hide the offering?
I should find it...
, should be able to find it!
As long as I have the desire for it, there shouldn't be anything I can't find!

Just a little bit...
think about it just a little.
Think about what is correct...!
Mahiro... don't do anything rash.
Please...!

SHAKESPEARE'S THE TEMPEST, ACT V, SCENE 1



● SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET, ACT III, SCENE 1

IT'S ALL IN THE PAST, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT YOU FORGIVE HIM.
IT WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING, RIGHT?
IT'S HIS FAULT.
THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS IN THIS WORLD I CAN'T FORGIVE.
CALL IT INTUI-TION.
HUH? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
I JUST PRESUMED.
DID YOU FORGET IT AL-READY?
WHAT I JUST QUOTED A MOMENT AGO...
IT'S NATURAL THAT I WON'T FORGIVE HIM.
...THAT GOES AGAINST REASON.

Yoshino-san is the kind of person that has issues in that area...
But in most cases, he's usually right, isn't he?
EVEN IF HE'S RIGHT,
THERE'S STILL A "REASONABLE" AND "UNREASONABLE".

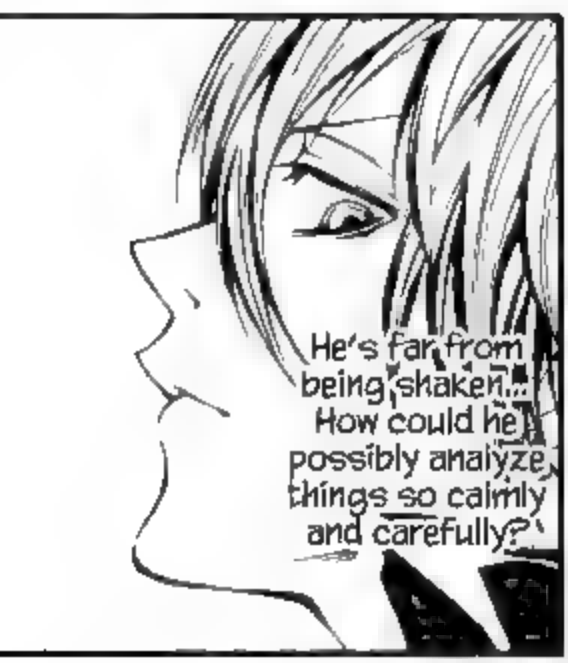
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU AN UNEXPECTED SIDE OF ME..
...WHY DID YOU RENT SUCH A CUTESY MOVIE?

Samon-dono.
The investigation regarding the murder a year ago has been completed.

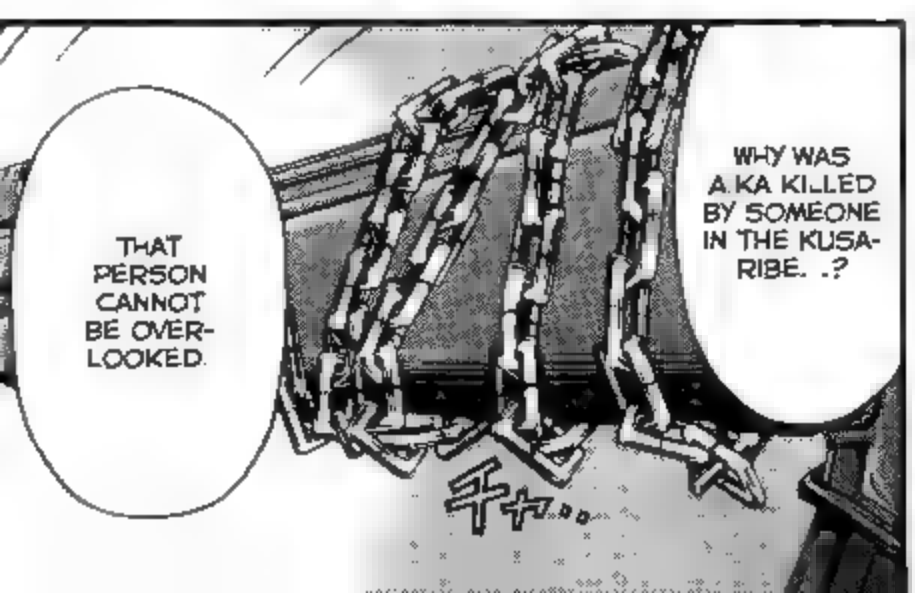
...Shit!
I SEE!
THE CULPRIT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED!
NO
YOSHINO...
UNTIL THE REPORT CAME IN, HE WAS TRYING TO SHAKE ME, EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A LITTLE BIT,
SO AS TO IMPEDE HAKAZE'S MOVEMENTS.
YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE TRYING TO BUY TIME.
SAMON WAS AS WELL.

WE MADE THAT PROMISE, AFTER ALL.
HOWEVER, ONCE THE CULPRIT WAS IDENTIFIED AND BROUGHT HERE, THERE WOULD NO LONGER BE ANY REASON FOR US TO TAKE THE PRINCESS' SIDE.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE IF I HAD ACTUALLY BEEN CONVINCED.
OF COURSE. .

This boy...


He's far from being shaken... How could he possibly analyze things so calmly and carefully?

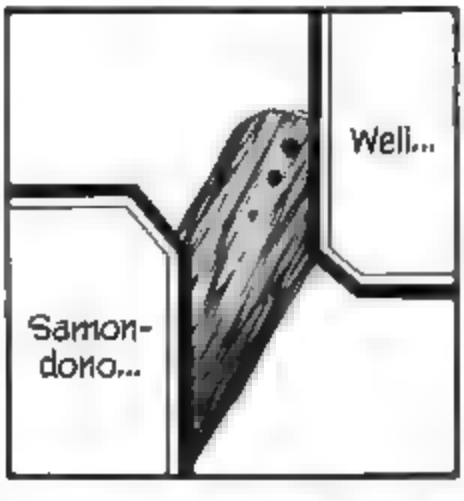
IF HE COULD SPLIT HAKAZE AND US APART, THEN HER FLOW OF VICTORY WOULD BE SLOWED DOWN...
AND HE COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT DELAY TO COMPLETE THE RESURRECTION OF THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN".


THAT PERSON CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED.
WHY WAS AKA KILLED BY SOMEONE IN THE KUSARIBE. .?

SAMON...
THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH WHAT YOU SAID.

AS FOR WHETHER OR NOT THERE'S A NEED TO DESTROY THE "TREE OF BEG N- NINGS"...
LET'S HEAR WHAT THAT PERSON HAS TO SAY FIRST, SHALL WE?

NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE CULPRIT, HURRY AND BRING THAT PERSON HERE.


Well...
Samon-dono...

TETSUMA, IT'S URGENT.
BRING THE CULPRIT HERE.

There is no one within the clan that has violated the natural laws.

WHAT I MEAN TO SAY .5...
.....
...WHAT?
There is no one within the clan that has committed murder.
The culprit is not within the clan!

IMPOS-
SIBLE!
THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'S TRUE.
WE'VE
CONFIRMED
IT SEVERAL
TIMES.
THERE
IS NO
MISTAKE!
WHAT'S
THE
MEANING
OF THIS!
HAKAZE?!
THERE'S
NO WAY!
I'VE
CONFIRMED
OVER AND
OVER AGAIN
ON MY END
AS WELL!
Even if the
culprit has
died, aside
from those
that have
already been
forgiven by
the "Tree of
Beginnings",
There's
no way to
escape the
magical
search!
THERE'S
NO WAY I
COULD BE
COVERING
THINGS UP
FOR SOME-
ONE!
YOU ALSO
UNDER-
STAND
THIS!

DON'T GIVE ME THAT SHIT!
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ME COMING HERE?!
IF YOU CAN'T DENTIFY THE CULPRIT BY MAGIC...
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
SOMETHING'S OFF, RIGHT?!
Something off...
That there could be...
...It's possible...
Are there other culprits who wouldn't be ensnared within the web of magic...?!

One who doesn't obey the "Tree of Beginnings"...
One who doesn't take on guilt despite violating the laws of this world...

THERE MIGHT BE!
ASIDE FROM THE KUSARIBE, THERE'S ONLY ONE KIND OF PERSON THAT WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT WITHIN THE WEB OF MAGIC!

ONE WHOSE ONLY LAW IS THAT OF DESTRUCTION!

LIKE ME!
JUST LIKE I AM THE PRINCESS OF THE "TREE OF THE BEGINNINGS"!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT FOR YOUR OWN CONVENIENCE...

A ROYAL PERSON BLESSED BY THE LAWS OF DESTRUCTION...
PERHAPS THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN" FELT ITS IMPENDING RESURRECTION AND GAVE BIRTH TO SUCH A PERSON!
IN OTHER WORDS,

A "magician of Zetsuen"!

T/N - "ZETSUEN" IS A MADE UP COMPOUND KANJI THAT ROUGHLY MEANS "THE END/DESTRUCTION/ANNIHILATION OF THE GARDEN" OF COURSE, IT IS MEANT TO STAND IN OPPOSITION TO THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS"

IT'S A MATTER OF BALANCE.
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO PUT HAKAZE'S SIDE AT A FURTHER DISADVANTAGE.
THE LAWS OF THE "TREE OF BEGIN-NINGS"
ACT TO PROTECT HAKAZE-CHAN.
IF THE IMPEND NG RESURREC-TION OF THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN" WERE TO PUT HAKAZE AT AN EVEN GREATER D.SADVAN-TAGE...
IN ORDER TO RECTIFY THIS, THE LAWS OF TH.S WORLD COULD POTENTIALLY START MOVING IN AN EXTRA-ORD NARY FASHION.
AN EXTRA-ORDINARY FASHION...
JUST WHAT...

The awakening of the "Tree of Beginnings"
Might be accelerated...
ゴボ"
ゴボ"
ゴボ

If that's true, then the culprit...?!
A "magician of Zetsuen" from the "Tree of Zetsuen"...?
絶園のテンペスト3 おわり

彩崎 廉あとがき

おまけページでははじめまして！
作画担当の彩崎と申します！
今回初おまけページということで
何か仕事場の話を書こうかと思ったのですが、それよりも何よりも
真っ先に感謝の言葉を書かねば！
と思いました。
原作の城平さん、構成の左さん、いつも素晴らしいストーリーと構成をありがとうございます！
担当の湯村さん、いつも本っ当――――――に色んな迷惑おかけしてすいません…!!
絶園スタッフのみんな、終電で帰っていいところを朝方までやっていってくれて本当にありがとう!!
もうここに書ききれないくらい、色んな人たちへの感謝がありますが、何よりも誰よりもこの本を手にとって下さったあなた！　本当にありがとうございます!!
すべてに感謝です!!

次巻から仕事場の話とか色々書いていければと思いますので、
次巻もよろしくお願いします！

Saizaki Ren

STAFF

内山慶志　中村さん
あつし　矢内さん　なにお ゆう

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ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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Zetsuen no Tempest ch 14

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